THE TALON

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2009 – 2010

THE GIFT REMEMBERED

15 Years Later, Oseola McCarty's Generosity Still Resonates

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what's new at your Zoo

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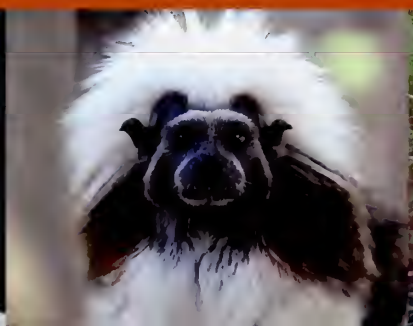

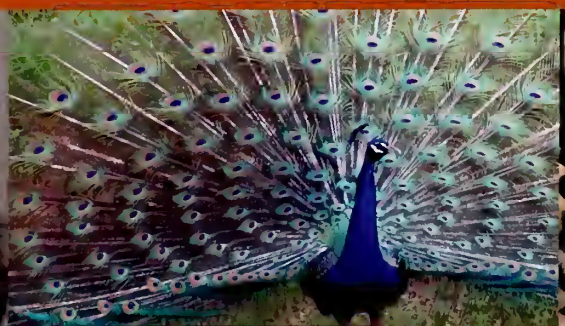

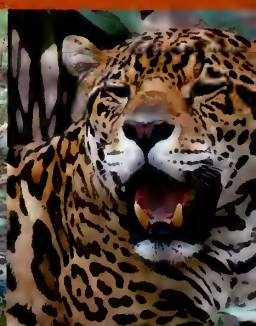

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THE TALON

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2009 - 2010

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14 | ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME, RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

Homecoming was cause for celebration again in 2009—not only as a result of another win on the football field by the Golden Eagles, but because many loyal and dedicated alumni were honored as part of the Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the Association's Annual Awards Brunch and Business Meeting.

31 | ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 fiscal year was indeed positive and exciting for the Alumni Association. The organization celebrated the completion of the Ogletree House Restoration and Expansion Project, made significant strides toward its goal of 20,000 members in 2010, and was honored for having the top institutional magazine in the state by the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

42 | "THE GIFT" THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

In 1995, Oseola McCarty gained national attention with her gift to the institution of $150,000, an amount that represented a majority of her life savings. Although McCarty passed away in 1999, she is remembered today as she was then—as a selfless woman whose faith in God led her to a gift of generosity few others would even consider.

48 | THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF 2010

On March 30, 2010, the University commemorates the 100th anniversary of its legislative founding. In recognition of this significant milestone, Southern Miss has planned a year-long celebration that not only recognizes the institution's treasured past, but eagerly anticipates its golden future.

FRONT COVER: OSEOLA MCCARTY BECAME THE UNIVERSITY'S MOST FAMOUS BENEFACTOR FOLLOWING HER GIFT OF $150,000 IN 1995. FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, HER STORY IS JUST AS INSPIRING. PHOTO BY KELLY CULPEPPER. FOR MORE ON KELLY CULPEPPER PHOTOGRAPHY, VISIT CULPEPPERPHOTO.COM.

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In January, participation in the Alumni Association surpassed 19,500, a record number of members for the organization. To reach our goal of 20,000 members we still need the help of our current members. Please encourage your family members, friends and co-workers to Join the Association!

In addition, if you purchase a gift membership for a Southern Miss alumnus or alumna through the special banner at SouthernMissAlumni.com or at the Ogletree House, you'll receive a limited-edition Seymour bobblehead while supplies last. The 7-inch bobblehead features Seymour in his black No. 1 Southern Miss jersey.

For more information, visit SouthernMissAlumni.com or call 601.266.5013.

1910 SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
20,000 in 2010

It is a rare occasion when you actually feel you are present when history is being made. I believe such is the case right now at The University of Southern Mississippi. As I am sure you know, Southern Miss is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its legislative founding throughout the 2010 calendar year, and I am excited about each of the more than 40 events, programs and initiatives scheduled this year.

The University's Centennial Celebration formally opened with its inaugural event on Friday, Jan. 29. The Voice of the Century concert featured the world's leading soprano, Renée Fleming, and our always outstanding Symphony Orchestra that continues to make headlines by performing with the absolute best artists in the world. What an incredible job they do and what a wonderful way to start our Centennial Celebration.

The next big event will be on March 30. If you are able, you should come to Hattiesburg as we have a full day of events planned, starting with our traditional Founders' Day Ceremony during which we inaugurate the new Student Government Association officers and recognize some of our best and brightest students with Hall of Fame inductions. This event will include the dedication of the new Centennial Gateway currently under construction at the main entrance to the Hattiesburg Campus off of Hardy Street.

The day will continue with a luncheon, campus convocation and community picnic. It will certainly be a worthwhile day celebrating the signing of the legislative act by then-Governor Edmond F. Noel on March 30, 1910, establishing Mississippi Normal College following one of the most contentious legislative fights of the time. If you can't join us on March 30, I hope you will participate in one of the numerous other opportunities to celebrate the Centennial. A full list of events can be found at www.usm.edu/centennial.

Speaking of history being made, this issue of *The Talon* also recognizes the 15th anniversary of the gift to the University by its most nationally recognized benefactor, Ms. Oseola McCarty. It is hard to believe that more than a decade has passed since Ms. McCarty died, and we felt it important to remind all of those associated with Southern Miss of the significance of this sweet, selfless woman who did nothing more, in her mind, than provide some money to assist others in doing what she could not do—obtain an education.

I hope you will take the time to read Ms. McCarty's story, even if you already know it. I think you will be encouraged about your University, and society in general, when you are reminded of the little washerwoman who never made it through the sixth grade but who provided a $150,000 estate gift, resulting in her meeting the President of the United States and being honored around the world.

Finally, in this issue you will find our annual report for 2008-09. It seems that as the calendar turned from Dec. 31, 2009, to Jan. 1, 2010, the overwhelming sentiment being expressed was "thank goodness 2009 is over." There is no question that 2009 was less than promising for many of us; however, for the Southern Miss Alumni Association, it was a pretty remarkable year. Some of the historic highlights included the setting of a new record for paid membership in the Alumni Association with 18,612 members, the first-ever recognition of *The Talon* as the top institutional magazine in the state by the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and, of course, the move back to the Ogletree House and the ribbon-cutting ceremony in September 2009.

Yes, I think 2009 was a pretty good year for the Alumni Association. As the Centennial theme of "Treasured Past. Golden Future." applies to this wonderful institution at present, the same could be said of the attitude of the Alumni Association. We certainly treasure the accomplishments and successes of our past, but we are even more excited about the golden future that lies ahead for our University and our Association. It is my hope and prayer that you continue to be a part of it.

Southern Miss to the Top!

Bob Pierce

Robert D. Pierce, II
Executive Director

New Student Activities Hub Opens

Located in what was once the University bookstore, the Student Activities Hub promises to be a center for energy and spirit on the Hattiesburg Campus. Re-opened in November, the renovated facility includes eight new offices for campus organizations, including the Southern Miss Activities Council, African-American Student Organization, Student Government Association and *The Southerner.* The tri-level hub also features conference rooms and student work areas.

"At Southern Miss we value the role of student leaders in moving us forward," said vice president for Student Affairs Dr. Joe Paul. "This space will allow our student leaders and organizations to further the cause, leaving Southern Miss better than they found it."

The facility also features a stunning piece of artwork by alumna Sharon Spell that hovers above the lobby area. The mural-like display once hung in the R.C. Cook Union but temporarily lost its home during renovation work there.

"In the past the Union Advisory Board decided that through a collection of student art, our mission would be enhanced by cultivating interests and providing a medium to challenge and stimulate the thoughts of the students and University community," said Barbara Ross, director of Union and Programs.

The University String Quartet performs at the grand opening of the new Student Activities Hub, located in the former bookstore in The Hub on the Hattiesburg Campus.

Joachim Retires from Southern Miss Gulf Coast

Dr. Pat Joachim is retiring as associate provost after leading the University's Gulf Coast operations for more than four years. Her retirement is effective June 30, 2010. A national search for a successor began in January.

"This university owes a huge debt of thanks to Dr. Joachim. She came to us at a time when we were most in need and fought with all her strength to re-open a devastated campus," said University President Dr. Martha Saunders. "Her success in that endeavor saved the educational plans of hundreds of students. I shall miss her optimism, her persistence, and her tireless professionalism and wish her a long and happy retirement."

Dr. Pat Joachim

Dr. Joachim received her doctorate in educational leadership in 1998 from Southern Miss. She also earned a master's degree in administration and supervision at the Gulf Park Campus in 1993 and a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1976 from Southern Miss.

In addition to having served as coordinator of programs for Educational Leadership and Research at Southern Miss Gulf Coast from 1999 to 2001, Joachim had extensive administrative experience in education within the Gulf Coast's school districts. Before serving as principal at Central Elementary School in Gulfport, she was assistant principal at Fernwood Junior High School in Biloxi. Joachim was also the assistant superintendent of personnel with the Ocean Springs School District.

Joachim returned to Southern Miss on Aug. 22, 2005, just one week before Hurricane Katrina devastated the University's Gulf Coast operations. While overseeing its reopening in just six weeks after the storm, Joachim has since continued to guide restoration of the campus and teaching site facilities.

Enrollment has also continued to rise under her leadership with 3,066 students last fall, the largest in Southern Miss Gulf Coast history.

Joachim has provided leadership for the Cross Creek Master Planning Committee as Southern Miss prepares to expand educational opportunities for the region with a new campus at Cross Creek, along the I-10 corridor in Harrison County.

"I am grateful to have what I view as a capstone career experience," said Joachim. "I have shared the excitement of tremendous growth at Southern Miss Gulf Coast with people who have the same passion for higher education. Giving back to my alma mater, a university that prepared me so well for my careers in education, has been rewarding."

Proclamation Ensures Annual Veterans Tribute

The freedom to cheer on their Golden Eagles is just one reason The University of Southern Mississippi family will pay special tribute to veterans and active military at a home football game each year.

In 2009, the tribute took place during the Nov. 21 football game against Tulsa, and in subsequent years the University will continue to honor veterans and active military at the home football game scheduled closest to Veterans Day, according to a proclamation signed by University President Martha Saunders and others on Veterans Day 2009.

"We have a proud association with the U.S. military dating back to World War I. Our students, faculty and staff have served our country during times of war and peace. Some of them paid the ultimate price. It's only fitting that we honor their service," said Dr. Saunders.

University President Martha Saunders signs a proclamation ensuring that the Southern Miss home football game closest to Veterans Day includes special recognition of active duty military and veterans. Looking on is Pride of Mississippi Band Director Mohamad Schumon, Athletics Director Richard Giannini and Alumni Association Executive Director Bob Pierce.

While the University has previously honored veterans in various ways, the recommendation to codify a recognition of military veterans at a home football game each year came from Southern Miss alumnus and United States Marine Corps veteran Lamar Reynolds, a former board member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

Reynolds, a member of the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame, is also known for attending 230-straight Southern Miss football games, a streak that spanned portions of three decades. Both the Association's Traditions Committee and its board of directors quickly supported Reynolds' recommendation.

Each branch of the military was recognized during the Tulsa game, and there were four honor/color guards on the field for the national anthem. Special tributes to the military were shown on the stadium video board, and student athletes also made a presentation to military representatives. The game was followed by a fireworks tribute.

Southern Miss to Hold United Spring Commencement for Centennial Celebration

In 2010, the institution is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its legislative founding. In honor of this historic event, the University's executive cabinet has approved plans to hold one, united commencement ceremony for students from all locations next May.

Spring commencement ceremonies are slated for 9 a.m., Saturday, May 15, 2010, in M.M. Roberts Stadium on the Hattiesburg Campus. Detailed plans for the May 2010 ceremony and related events are still being finalized, including securing a prominent keynote speaker. University officials expect about 1,600 candidates for graduation to participate from all colleges and both campuses.

The University typically holds two May ceremonies in Hattiesburg and one on the Gulf Coast while December graduates normally participate in one Hattiesburg ceremony. A Gulf Coast graduation ceremony will return to the schedule in May 2011.

Southern Miss began awarding bachelor's degrees in 1922. The first degree awarded that year went to Kathryn Swetman of Biloxi.

Did you KNOW?

Did you know that the University's most treasured traditions are protected by a resolution, initially signed in 2007 by Dr. Saunders and then-Alumni Association President Lou Ann Poynter? The resolution establishes the Association's Traditions Committee as a clearinghouse for proposed additions, deletions or alterations to the University's recognized traditions. For more on the University's traditions, or to view the original Traditions Resolution, visit SouthernMissAlumni.com.

College of Business Honors McDonnell as Alumnus of Year

Tom McDonnell III has reached lofty heights as a business executive, but the Hattiesburg native never forgot his alma mater while making the climb.

For his unwavering vocal and financial support, McDonnell was named the Boardman Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the College of Business.

Tom McDonnell III

The Madison resident is currently a member of the Southern Miss Foundation's board of directors and is past chairman of the Business Advisory Council. A Certified Public Accountant, McDonnell holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Southern Miss.

McDonnell is co-chairman and co-CEO and director of Franchise Services of North America Inc (FSNA), a publicly traded holding company on the Canadian Stock Exchange. FSNA is the holding company for several different brands operating more than 1,100 stores in many countries. He is also president of the LeFleur Transportation family of companies that provide non-emergency medical transportation services to government and corporate clients throughout Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma and South Carolina. He is the owner of System7Franchising LLC, a company that assists entrepreneurs in the process of franchising their businesses.

McDonnell has also taken an active role in the new College of Business Honors House, a living-learning community that opened this fall for business students. He is participating in the student/mentor program introduced as part of the curriculum for those residing in the Honors House.

Demonstration School Alumni Recognized

The Demonstration School Alumni Group held a dedication ceremony for two plaques and a historical marker on Feb. 26. The school served as a training ground for prospective teachers for 35 years on the Hattiesburg Campus.

An indoor plaque contains the names of the critic teachers in the Demonstration School from its opening in 1928 when Southern Miss was known as State Teachers College until its closing in 1963, when the institution was called Mississippi Southern College. In addition, a separate plaque lists all students who were soldiers killed in war.

The plaques, along with an outside marker in front of the George Hurst Building, were unveiled.

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3955 Veterans Memorial Drive
Hattiesburg, MS

6497 Highway 49 North
Hattiesburg, MS

Alumni Inducted Into Mass Communication and Journalism Hall of Fame

Renowned New York City advertising executive Peter Rogers returned to Hattiesburg to be inducted into the School of Mass Communication and Journalism's annual Hall of Fame in November.

Rogers, widely known for placing classic one-liners with luxury products such as Vidal Sassoon and Blackgama Mink, was among the 12 outstanding Southern Miss graduates inducted for their distinguished work in advertising and public relations. Other inductees included a California-based entertainment producer, a former Coca-Cola executive, a former standout Mississippi Power executive and a former Southern Miss professor.

"The Hall of Fame was created in spring 2006 to give the School of Mass Communication and Journalism a way of recognizing its many distinguished graduates, as well as other Mississippians who have contributed to the school or to mass communication and journalism in the state," said Dr. Chris Campbell, director of the school.

The inductees include:

Rick '78 and Beth Bice '77, who established Bice Advertising Inc., in 1978 aiming to provide creative advertising, graphic design and multimedia for clients. Their work spans more than 30 years and includes local clients such as Southern Miss, the City of Hattiesburg, the Area Development Partnership, South Mississippi Electric Power Association and Hattiesburg Clinic.

Dr. John Forde, APR, '84, '88, has led the Communications Department at Mississippi State University for 22 years and continues to teach online and in the classroom.

Reed Guice '71, who opened The Guice Agency in 2004 in Biloxi with the goal of building exceptional brands through advertising, consulting, and public relations services. His client list includes the New Orleans Saints/Mississippi Region; Hard Rock and Boomtown Casinos; the Governor's Commission on Recovery, and the American Red Cross.

Rex Kelly '80, who served as an executive for Mississippi Power, where he received the top spot in customer satisfaction and earned the Utility Communicator International's Communicator Award six times.

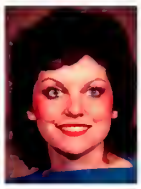
Mart Martin '78, who leads the creative division of Jackson Spalding in Atlanta. He served as the director of public relations for the 1985 United States Olympic Festival and the 1983 World Summer Games. He is also a 20-year veteran of the Coca-Cola Company and former director of public and media relations for its North America division.

Danny Mitchell '70, '71, who joined GodwinGroup in 1983 and is now the senior partner and chairman of its board. Mitchell, a past president of PRAM as well as SPRF, received the Silver Medal Award from the American Advertising Federation in Jackson in 2001. He is a member of the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame.

Lt. Col. Roger Steven Murray '85, who serves as the communications director for the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in Tallahassee, Fla. An award-winning public affairs professional, he has had more than two decades of success in directing extensive employee communications, media relations and community affairs programs both stateside and overseas while in the U.S. Air Force and with the state of Florida.

Donna Ritchey '87, who currently serves as partner and executive vice president of GodwinGroup in Jackson. Ritchey currently serves on the agency's eight-member executive committee, an entity formed to oversee agency operations.

Peter Rogers '57, who opened Peter Rogers Associates in New York City in 1974. The agency was known for positioning luxury products with simple graphics and one-liners: "If you don't look good, we don't look good"; "Danskins are not just for dancing"' and "What becomes a legend most?" to name a few. Rogers' client list included famous names such as Vidal Sassoon, Pierre Cardin, Gloria Vanderbilt, David Webb and *Elle* magazine.



Barbara Shoemake '82, '85, who joined the Southern Miss faculty in 1992. She was a founding member of the Pine Belt Chapter of PRAM and was named Practitioner of the Year by the organization in 1997.

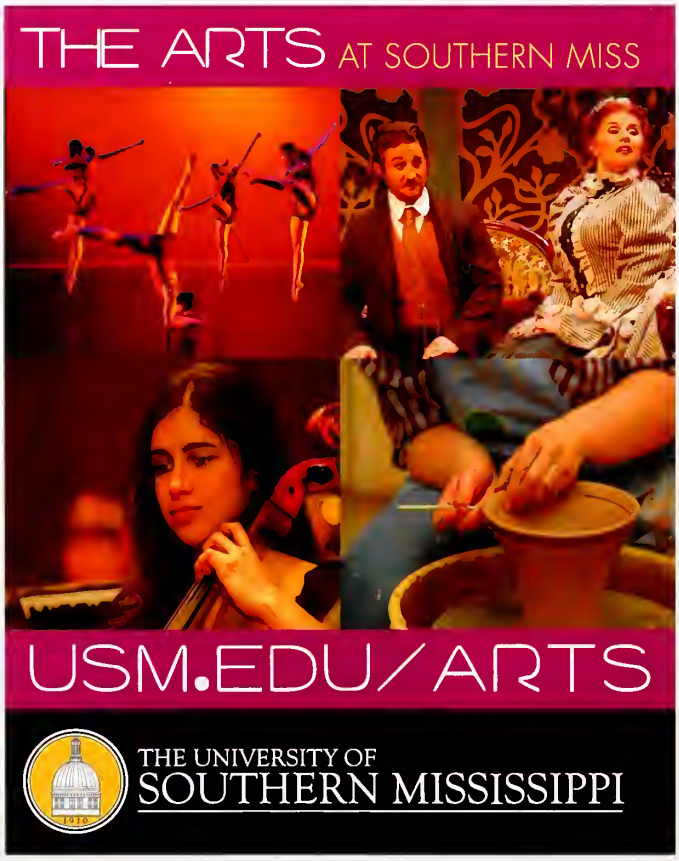
Cindy Smartt '83, '84, who became the sole proprietor of San Diego-based Smartt Entertainment Inc. in 2002. Since then, the Signal Mountain, Tenn., native has become internationally recognized as a top producer of corporate events.

CENTENNIAL TRiVIA

As the celebration of the University Centennial approaches on March 30, 2010, here are a few questions to test your knowledge of Southern Miss history. Answer four correctly, and we'll assume you are a former University Archives staff member. Answer two or three accurately, and you can consider yourself a loyal alum. Answer zero or one correctly, and you may want to double check to make sure your diploma is not from the University of Mississippi.

1. What was the original name of the school yearbook, currently known as *The Southerner*?
2. What famous alumna was the first woman to hold an elected statewide position in the Mississippi Legislature?
3. In what year was the song "Southern Miss to the Top" written?
4. What Southern Miss basketball player leads the University career lists in rebounds and blocks and is second in scoring?

SEE THE ANSWERS ON PAGE 62



Upcoming Events Calendar

All events are subject to change and should be confirmed. Any questions regarding these events can be directed to the Southern Miss Alumni Association at alumni@usm.edu or call 601.266.5013. Please visit SouthernMissAlumni.com for the most up-to-date calendar. All events are located on the Hattiesburg Campus unless otherwise noted. For athletics schedules, visit SouthernMiss.com. The men's baseball and women's softball home schedules are included in the Athletic News section of this edition of *The Talon*.

March

25 **Centennial Oral History Roundtable: College of Business**

25-28 **The Department of Theatre and Dance presents "Macbeth"** | 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday | Gilbert F. Hartwig Theatre | General admission tickets are $8.

26 **School of Music Connoisseur Chamber Music Series, Meridian Arts Ensemble** | 7:30 p.m. | Bennett Auditorium Tickets range from $5 to $15.

27 **Centennial Observance at Hubfest** Downtown Hattiesburg

April

10 **Minority Constituent Society Reception** | 2 p.m. | Ogletree House | For reservations, contact Kimberly Fountain at kfountain@yahoo.com.

12 **Mobile Bay Classic Golf Tournament and Dinner** | Golf at 1 p.m., Dinner at approximately 5:30 p.m. | Timber Creek Golf Club | For more information, contact Joe Sullivan at 251.929.1295 or jsullivan@willpierce.com, or Jamie Loris at 251.432.3100 or jamieloris@aol.com.

26 **Meridian Golf Tournament and Alumni Dinner** | 11:30 a.m. | Northwood Country Club | Cost is $125 for golf. | Deadline for entry is April 18. | For more information, contact Dick Simmons at 601.955.1783 or dicksimmons21@aol.com, Brad Reynolds at 601.485.2453 or Jimmy Garrett at 601.917.3309.

28 **The Legacy's Rock the Roost** | 5 p.m. | Pete Taylor Park | For more information, contact Shawn Foles at 228.324.9977.

Centennial Founders' Week Celebration

The University will host Founders' Week from March 29 through April 2 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the institution's legislative founding on March 30, 1910.

Events will include the Centennial Gateway dedication, Founders' Day Convocation and a community celebration.

A full schedule of Founders' Day events can be found on Page 52.

Volunteers Take Home Awards from Annual Leadership Conference

Approximately 25 alumni chapter volunteers, ambassadors and constituent society presidents gathered at the Ogletree House in January for the Alumni Association's annual Leadership Conference. The volunteers discussed opportunities and ideas for events and initiatives, as well as the Association's 20,000 in 2010 Membership Campaign.

Highlighting the conference was the awarding of the annual Alumni Chapter of the Year Award and the Scott Caldwell Award, honoring the chapter president of the year, as well as a new award, the Alumni Ambassador of the Year. Alumni Ambassadors serve as the Association's volunteer leader in key geographic areas where not enough Southern Miss alumni reside to warrant the organization of a chapter. This year's winners included:

Alumni Chapter of the Year
Birmingham, Ala.

The chapter held three feature events in 2009—a luncheon for more than 40 alumni with College of Business Dean Dr. Lance Nail, a Family Day in the Park with more than 50 alumni and friends in attendance, and a large tailgate before the Southern Miss vs. UAB football game with more than 100 alumni and fans in attendance. These events, in addition to several other smaller events throughout the year, gave alumni in the Birmingham area an outlet to support the University. The chapter has seen strong growth over the last year with an increase in alumni participation as well as participation in community events and community service.

Nick Posey, current president of the Birmingham Chapter, left, and Rick Schaub, past president of the chapter, right, receive the Chapter of the Year Award from Ryan Kelly, Alumni Association manager of constituent relations.

Kevin Prince, left, is presented the Scott Caldwell Award, which annually honors the outstanding chapter president, from Ryan Kelly, Alumni Association manager of constituent relations.

Scott Caldwell Award
Kevin Prince—Central MS Alumni Chapter

Prince has continued the strong organization of the Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter board and provided superb leadership for the planning of both the chapter's Founders' Day Party in March as well as the Jackson All-Star Party in July, among other smaller events throughout the year.

Alumni Ambassador of the Year
Stacy Busby—Huntsville, Ala.

Busby has organized a strong leadership board and has substantially increased alumni participation in the area. Two featured events were held in Huntsville in 2009— a wine-tasting dinner in January and an alumni dinner with Southern Miss legend Ray Guy in August. More than 200 alumni participated in these events.

Lee Berry, left, incoming Alumni Ambassador for the Huntsville, Ala., area, presents the Alumni Ambassador of the Year Award to Stacy Busby. Berry accepted the award on behalf of Busby at the Leadership Conference.

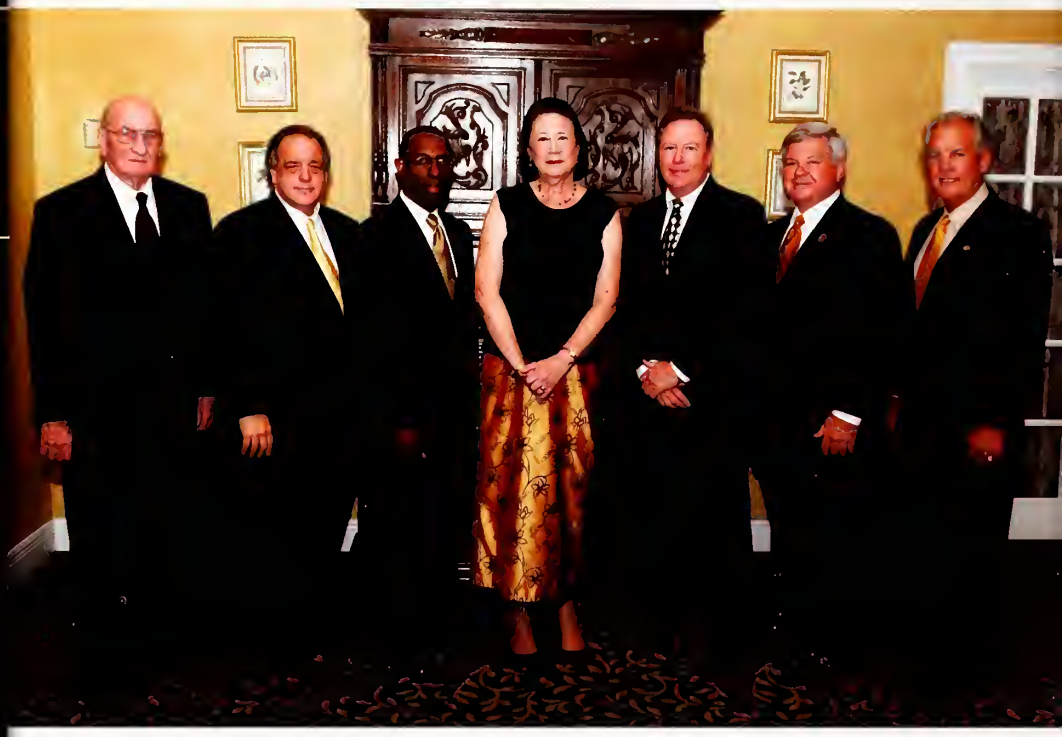
Welcome New Alumni Association Life Members

Lynda Yarbrough Abner
Spencer Adams, IV
C. Michael Bowlin, Jr.
Doug & Judy Burnett
Ben & Tirza Carmichael
Robert Collins
Barbara D'Amico
Sean & Florence Dassau
Paul & Charlotte Delcambre
Howard S. Draper
Christopher & Dana Farris
Ed & Karen Hatten
James S. Henderson
Brett & Tammy Herrington
James & Gerry Holt
Wade C. Howk, Jr.
Cecil Johnston
Dana Dale Jones
Tommy & Sandra King
Thomas Ford Kinsey
Debra Love
Greg & Tara Marshall
Perilyn G. Mitchell
Deborah Kay Palmer
Stephen A. Phillips
Marsha Crosby Poovey
M. Channing Powell
James & Kathryn Ray
Thomas & Wendy Ray
Elizabeth Catherine Richardson
Christopher & Angela Robertson
John M. Saucier
Irvinder Singh
Penny L. Snider
Frances J. Stewart
Dorian Justin Stone
Bill & Sally Thompson
David Tisdale
Cheryl Lynn Tucker
Wilfredo Vera
John T. Weaver
Davis & Kimberly Wingo

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
- CLASS OF 2009 -

Seven of the University's most dedicated and distinguished volunteers joined the exclusive ranks of the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame on Oct. 23. The honored include:

- DORRANCE AULTMAN, Class of 1954. A respected attorney, he has compiled a distinguished record of service to the University, community and country.
- DR. JAY DEAN, Classes of 1975 and 1977. The music director of the University's Symphony Orchestra since 1988, he has attracted the world's top talent to perform alongside Southern Miss students.
- DICKIE DUNAWAY, Class of 1969. A businessman and Gulfport native, he was a student leader on campus and on the football field as a Golden Eagle punter.
- MARY DAYNE GREGG, Classes of 1971 and 1982. A long-time University employee, she was recognized for her decades of service to Southern Miss.
- JOHN LAZENBY, Class of 1969. One of the top realtors in the Orlando, Florida-area, he is a dedicated supporter of the Alumni Association and the College of Business.
- BILLY WALKER, Class of 1980. A faithful volunteer for both the Eagle Club and the Alumni Association, he is past president of the Gulf Coast Alumni Association and Eagle Club chapters and has served on the Athletic Foundation's board of directors.
- DR. ALVIN WILLIAMS, Class of 1974. A longtime professor, department chair, and former interim dean of the College of Business, he is the vice president of the Alumni Association and co-chair of the University's Centennial Celebration Steering Committee.



The 2009 inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame included, from left, Dorrance Aultman, Jay Dean, Alvin Williams, Mary Dayne Gregg, Billy Walker, John Lazenby and Dickie Dunaway.

DORRANCE AULTMAN
CLASS OF '54

A respected attorney who is active in the Hattiesburg community, Sumrall native Dorrance Aultman graduated from Mississippi Southern College in 1954 and was awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Mississippi in 1956, the same year he was admitted to the Mississippi Bar. More than five decades later, he continues to practice law as president of the firm of Aultman, Tyner & Ruffin, Ltd. Among other professional affiliations, he is a member of the South Mississippi Bar Association, for which he served as president in 1970, the Mississippi State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

While his professional accomplishments are many, Aultman has also served his country and community in a number of ways. He was commissioned as a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army in 1956, serving on active duty and in the reserves for 30 years, and retired from the Mississippi Army National Guard as a Brigadier General. Along the way he received numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Commendation Ribbon and the Legion of Merit. Aultman is a member of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg, having served as president in 1973-74, and is a past chairman of the March of Dimes of Forrest County, as well as a past United Way board member. In addition, his pro bono work as general counsel for William Carey University was just one reason that institution awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree in 2008. Finally, he maintains an active role at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

His service also extends to Southern Miss. The Life Member of the Association is also an Eagle Club member, a member of the Circle of Champions, the Dugout Club, the Hardwood Club, the Attack Club and Wings. In addition, he is a member of the USM Foundation's Honor Club and recently completed a three-year term on the Foundation's board of directors.

Aultman has been married to wife Carolyn O'Neal Aultman for 53 years, and all three of their children attended Southern Miss—Dorrance "Dee" Aultman Jr. '84; Cynthia Hicks '85, '89; and Jo Ann Guy. His sons-in-law, Brian Guy '83, and Stacy Hicks '93, are also graduates of the University. The family includes two grandsons, Brady O'Neal and Cody Allen Hicks, and a granddaughter, Meagan Mackenzie Guy.

DR. JAY DEAN

CLASSES OF '75, '77

Dr. Jay Dean has been the music director of The University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra since 1988. He is a member of the Alumni Association, as well as the USM Foundation Honor Club's Associates for Excellence and Founders' Society. During his tenure as orchestra director, the orchestra has cultivated an international reputation that enhances not only the University, but also the state and region. His recruiting efforts have elevated the symphony into a multinational conglomerate, attracting students from 15 different countries. Dean's vision has literally brought the world to Mississippi, including performances across the state by internationally known classical icons such as Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Sir James Galway, as well as celebrities including Patti LaBelle, Doc Severinsen and Ray Charles.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Miss in 1975 and 1977, respectively, Dean received his DMA in orchestral conducting from the University of Texas at Austin. He has served as music director of Dekalb Youth Symphony Orchestra in Atlanta, the Mercer University/Atlanta Chamber Orchestra, the Columbus State University Orchestra, the Atlanta Festival Orchestra and Chorus, the Austin Civic Orchestra and the Southwest Chamber Orchestra. He also served as assistant conductor for the Austin Lyric Opera.

Dean is the executive director of the Professional Resource Institute for Musical Excellence, the executive director of the Vicksburg International Chamber Music Festival and president of the Mississippi Orchestra Teachers Association. Previously, he was artistic director of the Southern Arts Festival, state president of the National Opera Association, regional membership chair for the International Conductors Guild and past president of the Mississippi Music Educators Association Orchestra Division. He served on the advisory board for the formation of the Mississippi School for the Arts as the representative from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and has served on the board of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and the Mississippi Opera Education Committee. He was also the music coordinator for four international art exhibitions presented by the Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange. Dean is a member of the International Conductor's Guild and a clinician for the Scherl and Roth Musical Instrument Company.

Dean is married to Mary Ann Kyle, a member of the University's faculty. He has three daughters—Michelle, an alumna, Alex, a Southern Miss employee, and Anna, who will be a Southern Miss student next year; one son, Christopher, who is a Southern Miss student; and two stepsons, Jonathan and David.

RICHARD "DICKIE" DUNAWAY

CLASS OF '69

Born and raised in Gulfport by the late Harty Levy and Maurine Stokes Dunaway, Richard "Dickie" Dunaway became a leader on campus and on the football field in Hattiesburg.

Although he eventually became a three-year letterman for the Southerners, Dunaway began his collegiate playing career as a walk-on when a friend of the family asked Coach Thad "Pie" Vann to allow Dunaway a tryout. Dunaway impressed, earning the University's first full scholarship for a punter, a scholarship that enabled him to continue to attend college as his family faced financial hardships. The 1969 graduate was also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Advanced ROTC Military Science, the M-Club and Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Following Commencement, Dunaway took a job as a factory representative for the Ford Motor Company, a position that would eventually spark the opening of his own glass business, Auto Glass Discount, in Gulfport in 1971. Today, nearly 40 years and a few hurricane-related challenges later, Dunaway Glass Inc. continues to serve the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Inspired by the scholarship he earned more than four decades ago, Dunaway has also served his alma mater in a number of capacities. The Life Member of the Alumni Association is a former president of the Gulf Coast Metro Alumni Chapter and was honored with the Association's Continuous Service Award in 2004. He is a 1992 inductee into the M-Club Hall of Fame, a member of the Eagle Club, a member of the USM Foundation's Honor Club at the President's Circle Level, the Circle of Champions, and currently serves

on the Athletic Foundation's board of directors. In addition, he has arranged for two endowed scholarships: the Dickie Dunaway Athletic Football Scholarship, awarded to Golden Eagle punters, and the Richard "Dickie" and Nancy Hodges Dunaway Gulf Coast Scholarship, which is available to students from coast counties who plan to attend Southern Miss Gulf Coast.

Dickie and his wife, the former Nancy Hodges '74, of Biloxi, enjoy entertaining at their tailgate area on the Eagle Walk and have frequently opened their home for Southern Miss to deliver its message to Gulf Coast high school juniors. Their family includes Dickie's daughter, Denise Dunaway-Ozerden, and her three children, Vivian Caffee, Hardy Noble and Miriam Dunaway, Dickie's son, R. Damon Dunaway, and Nancy's son, Ryan Lawrence.

MARY DAYNE GREGG

CLASSES OF '71, '82

Since 1960, Mary Dayne Kenamond Gregg has been a part of the Southern Miss family. Gregg was born in Jackson and is the third daughter of Fred and Jane Kenamond. After her father joined the Southern Miss accounting faculty in the fall of 1960, the Kenamond family moved to Hattiesburg. As a young teenager, she rode her bicycle to campus to explore and take advantage of offerings like swimming lessons and other camps. Then at the age of 16, Gregg obtained her first job at Southern Miss, a summer job in the Registrar's Office filing and processing transcript requests.

In 1981, she joined the faculty as a full-time instructor in the Department of Computer Science. During Gregg's tenure as an instructor, she continued to serve as an alumnae advisor for Chi Omega, the faculty adviser for both the Golden Key International Honour Society and Upsilon Pi Epsilon, and as assistant chair of the department.

In 1971, Gregg earned her bachelor's degree with highest honors in mathematics and secondary education. As a student, she became a member of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Chi Omega, served on the Women's Judiciary Board and was a student worker in the housing department. Gregg also received the Citizenship Award and was named to the University's Hall of Fame.

After graduation, she was a high school mathematics teacher at Hattiesburg High School from 1972 until 1981. During this time, Gregg also pursued a MS degree in computer science and taught night classes at Southern Miss as an adjunct instructor. In 2002, Gregg was named to the Southern Miss Greek Hall of Fame and was named the College Panhellenic Council Advisor of the Year. In addition, in 2006 the Chi Omega Foundation scholarship that is awarded annually to an active member of the Epsilon Delta chapter was named in her honor.

After a brief retirement in the spring of 2007, Gregg rejoined the University and works as an assistant to Dr. Martha Saunders in the Office of the President.

Gregg and her husband Wally, Life Members of the Association and members of the Eagle Club, have two children, Ginny Gregg Graham '94 and Dr. Neal Gregg. They also are the proud grandparents of three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Did you KNOW?

Did you know that the seven inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009 brings its total membership to 228? That figure represents less than 0.2 percent of the total number of Southern Miss graduates.

JOHN LAZENBY

CLASS OF '69

John Lazenby consistently has ranked in the top 20 realtors in Orange County, Fla., with transactions totaling more than $100 million over the past five years. But while Lazenby is joined on that list by other top realtors, he is a clear leader when it comes to service to his community and his alma mater.

His service to Southern Miss is impressive. In addition to his role as one of the founding members of the College of Business' advisory council, Lazenby, a Life Member of the Alumni Association, served as a member of the Association's board of directors from 1994-96 and as a chapter president on multiple occasions. He was honored with the Association's Outstanding Service Award in 1983 and the Continuous Service Award in 1999. Lazenby's contribution to the Ogletree House, along with his daughter Stacey Lazenby Malaret '96, was a painting of the Ogletree House by alumna Janet Shearer, which they dedicated to Polly Odom and Jewel Tucker of the President's Office for their work on behalf of the University.

While he is certainly willing to lend a helping hand in Hattiesburg when called upon, his community service is also extensive in his home state of Florida as well. Among other involvement, Lazenby sits on the associate board of directors of the Florida Citrus Sports Association, is on the selection committee for their Capital One and Champs Sports Bowls, and has been a team host for the Champs Sports Bowls for the past four years.

As a professional, Lazenby has spent 20 years developing the skills and attributes which he employs when selling properties for individuals and developers and working with buyers—dedication, professionalism and trustworthiness.

He is a member of the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council's Hall of Fame and the board of directors of the Florida Association of Realtors. He has received an *Orlando Magazine* Realtor of Distinction Award each year since 2005 and has been named to *Orlando Magazine's* "Hot 100 Realtors of Central Florida" each year since 2006.

Lazenby has two children, Stacey and John Jr., and two grandchildren, Madison and Brandon Malaret.

WILLIAM M. WALKER

CLASS OF '80

A Southern Miss education is a family affair for Billy Walker, who earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1980. Brenda, his wife, graduated in 1978, and both sets of parents finished in the 1950's from Mississippi Southern College. All four parents received education degrees leading to careers in teaching, coaching and school administration in Mississippi. Baylee, Walker's daughter, attended Southern Miss and hopes to return for her degree soon, while son Brett has taken classes at Southern Miss Gulf Park. Two nieces from Alabama are also currently sophomores.

Walker has been involved with Southern Miss through the Alumni Association and the Athletic Department for nearly 20 years. He is past president of the Gulf Coast Metro Chapter of the Alumni Association and has served on the Association's Board of Directors, as well as the Traditions Committee. Walker's previous Alumni Association awards include the Outstanding Service Award, Continuous Service Award and the Meritorious Service Award. Billy and Brenda are Life Members of the Association.

While Walker has served the Alumni Association faithfully through the years, he also has a passion for Southern Miss Athletics. Bleeding black and gold is a way of life as Walker, his family and friends attend games and support the Golden Eagles at home and on the road. He is a past president of the Gulf Coast Eagle Club, and through his leadership and alongside many volunteers, they have helped raise scholarship money for student-athletes with benefit golf tournaments, football game-watching parties, bus trips and drawdown fundraisers. Walker has served on the board of directors for the Athletic Foundation and continues to support the Department of Athletics through memberships in the Circle of Champions, Eagle Club, Attack Club, Hardwood Club, Dugout Club, Wings Club and Golden Tee Club.

Walker is self-employed and operates several successful businesses in Biloxi and Houston, Texas. The businesses provide services to clients throughout the South, and he counts the University as one of his many valued customers. He is a member of numerous business and trade organizations and supports many local charities in south Mississippi.

Billy and Brenda, his wife of 28 years and the brains behind their football-tailgating group, reside in Biloxi with their children, Brett and Baylee, and their family dog of 15 years, Biscuit.

ALVIN J. WILLIAMS

CLASS OF '74

Dr. Alvin Williams' distinguished record of service to The University of Southern Mississippi spans three decades and continues today. While the majority of his efforts on behalf of Southern Miss have been as a professor and administrator, Williams currently serves as co-chair of the University's Centennial Celebration Steering Committee and Vice President of the Alumni Association. As co-chair of the Centennial Committee, Williams and co-chair Rex Kelly, along with honorary chair Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, are responsible for guiding a group of 50 volunteers as they make plans to ensure that the 100th anniversary of the institution's founding captures both the University's treasured past and its golden future. In his role as Vice President of the Alumni Association, Williams is part of an executive committee that provides guidance for the Association's operations.

While his volunteer service is impressive, Williams is best known for his work in academia. Williams earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Miss in 1974, master's degree from the University of Alabama and his PhD from the University of Arkansas. He was interim dean of the College of Business and professor of marketing at Southern Miss, where he worked from 1980 to 2008. Williams also served as a department chair from 1988 to 2005. He is past president of the Society for Marketing Advances and past editor of the *Journal of Supply Chain Management*.

Williams has conducted more than 350 presentations and seminars for supply management and marketing professionals in the U.S., Europe, South Africa and China. He has published in various academic and professional journals in marketing and supply management, including *Industrial Marketing Management*, the *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *Supply Chain Management Review* and the *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*. Williams is currently a distinguished professor of marketing at the University of South Alabama's Mitchell College of Business.

His civic and community activities have included at various times, Boy Scouts of America, which honored him with the Silver Beaver Award, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club board, United Way of Southeast Mississippi, Area Development Partnership Board and the USM Foundation Board. He is married to Lourinda Williams '75, '77, and the Life Members of the Alumni Association have two daughters, Adria and Aprille.

2009 Award Winners

Each year at Homecoming, the Alumni Association honors distinguished alumni and the University's most faithful servants at the Annual Awards Brunch and Business Meeting. While nominations are accepted year round, submissions must be received by May 30 each year for the approaching Homecoming ceremonies in the fall. Nominations can be made at SouthernMissAlumni.com, by fax to 601.266.4218, or mail to the Southern Miss Alumni Association, 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001.

The Alumni Association presents six awards each year, a list that includes:

Outstanding Service Award
Given to up to seven alumni based on their service to the University.

Continuous Outstanding Service Award
Given to up to five alumni for their long-term efforts and dedication to Southern Miss.

Special Service Award
Given to individuals, not necessarily alumni, who have made a significant, unique contribution to the University, community, or his or her profession.

Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award
Given to one alum thirty-six years of age or younger who has made contributions of time and effort to the University, community, and his or her profession.

Moran Pope Meritorious Service Award
Given to one alum annually who has continued to give of his or her time and talents throughout the years to recognize outstanding alumni support, professional achievement, loyalty, and service to the University.

Friend of Southern Miss Award
Given to one individual annually who is not an alum, but has contributed greatly to the progress of Southern Miss throughout the years.

Cynde Clark '71, '82
Outstanding Service Award

A proud member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, Cynde Clark serves on the board for the South Central Mississippi chapter. In that role, she plays an important role in helping coordinate the chapter's Fanfare event. Clark is also a member of the Eagle Club.

Her service extends to the Sumrall community as well. Since 1978, Clark has been molding young minds as a teacher at Sumrall Middle School (SMS) teaching English, math and career discovery. Currently, she teaches information communication technology to seventh graders at the middle school. Throughout her career at SMS, Clark has been the recipient of several awards including Teacher of the Year. In 2005, Clark earned her National Board Certification in Career and Technical Education. Clark also volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club and First Baptist Church of Sumrall.

She is married to husband Joe and has one son, Chance.

Scott Kersh '91, '92
Outstanding Service Award

As a board member for the Central MS Alumni Chapter and a member of the Jackson Eagle Club, Scott Kersh is a dedicated volunteer whose work helps to ensure that events such as the Jackson All-Star Party are successes.

As a professional, Kersh is the chief financial officer of St. Catherine's Village, a continuing care retirement community located in Madison. He joined St. Catherine's in 2004 after holding numerous accounting and management positions in the banking and manufacturing industries. The Vicksburg native also serves on the board of directors of the St. Dominic Health Services Foundation.

Kersh earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and his master's degree in professional accountancy. He is a certified public accountant and serves on the industry committee for the Mississippi Society of CPAs. Kersh is also a peer surveyor for CARF-CCAC, the accrediting organization for Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the United States and Canada.

Kersh is married to Christy '94 and has two sons, Tyler and Jeremy.

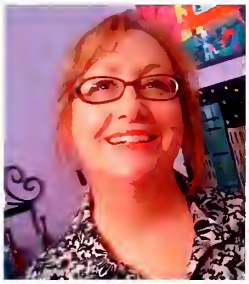
Jamie Loris '85
Outstanding Service Award

Jamie Loris, a 1985 graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi, started displaying signs of a life of service during his undergraduate years. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, was a Kappa Delta big brother and was named Greek Man of the Year in 1985.

Currently, Loris is the owner and president of Loris and Edge Law Firm. The firm has offices in Mobile and Selma and is one of the largest bankruptcy law firms in Alabama.

Despite running one of the most successful law firms in Alabama, Loris still finds time to support his alma mater. He is a Life Member of the Alumni Association, a member of its Law Constituent Society and is a director for the Eagle Club. He is also a past president of the Mobile and Birmingham alumni chapters and is chairman of the Eagle Club's Mobile Bay Classic Golf Tournament. Loris has five children: Theresa, John, Hayden, Cullen and Carley.

SUSAN MARQUEZ '80



Susan Marquez is recognized as one of the top retail-marketing experts in central Mississippi and is a top volunteer for the Alumni Association's Central Mississippi Chapter. Marquez uses her talents to assist the chapter with events such as the Jackson All-Star Party.

For more than a decade, she was the marketing director for the Northpark Mall in Ridgeland. Today, her company, Susan Marquez Consulting, based in Madison, offers marketing and public relations services to local organizations.

She is a contributing writer for the *Mississippi Business Journal* and a past president of the American Advertising Federation in Jackson, an organization that awarded her its highest honor, the Silver Medal, in 1996. She received the Madison County Chamber of Commerce's President's Award, and in 2001 was named one of Mississippi's 50 leading businesswomen by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Susan and her husband, Larry, have two children: Nicole, a Southern Miss alumna, and Joseph, who plans to attend Southern Miss in the fall.

LISA B. PALAZZO '94

Service to the University and community has become a way of life for Lisa Palazzo. Although she was born and raised in Texas, Palazzo has made Mississippi home. Palazzo is a Life Member of the Alumni Association, a member of the Eagle Club and is past president of the Gulf Coast Metro Alumni Chapter.

After living abroad for several years, Palazzo moved back to Mississippi and worked as a kinesiotherapist. Later she switched careers to help her husband, State Representative Steven Palazzo, manage his CPA firm, Palazzo & Company, PLLC.

In the Biloxi community, Palazzo is known for her community service through many organizations including the Harrison County Republican Women, Civitan Club, Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Harrison County Republican Club. This past year Palazzo was recognized by the *Mississippi Business Journal* as one of Mississippi's 50 leading businesswomen.

Lisa and Steven have three children.

DAVID RIMES '90

David Rimes, owner and operator of Auto Locators & Sales in Hattiesburg, has been a proud supporter of Golden Eagle athletics since his days as a member of the golf team.

As an alumnus, Rimes has continued his commitment to Southern Miss sports as a member of the Athletic Foundation's board of directors. Through his business, the Eagle Club member works with the Southern Miss transportation team to provide coaches with cars.

Rimes' support also extends beyond the Athletics department at Southern Miss, as he is a donor for the Ogletree House Campaign, a Life Member in the Alumni Association, and a member of the USM Foundation's President's Circle. He is also a member of the Southern Miss 100 and is a founder of the Hub City Quarterback Club.

Rimes graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant administration. He is the proud father of two daughters, Ramey and Peyton, and is the son of Pat and Paul Rimes '61.

JANET WALKER '06

During her time as a student and now as an alumna, Janet Payne Walker has sought to find ways to use her talents as a graphic designer to contribute to the University. As a student she was both a designer and the editor of *The Southerner*. She earned her bachelor's degree in art with an emphasis in graphic communication in 2006. She then became a primary designer and creative director on numerous award-winning projects at Communication Arts Company in Jackson, servicing a broad range of clients including state departments, international companies, local restaurants, and various retailers.

She has continued her service to the University as an active alumna, serving multiple terms on the Publications Board, helping to improve the print communications of the Association. Through Communication Arts, she now assists the Association with the design of *The Talon*.

Janet and her husband, Chris Walker '05, '06, live in Jackson.

JOHN COX '78

For more than 30 years, thousands of Golden Eagles have invited John Cox into their homes or vehicles during the fall season. As the play-by-play announcer for Southern Miss football and basketball, Cox has perhaps the most recognizable voice of any Southern Miss alumnus. Cox began his career at Southern Miss in 1978 calling play-by-play on delayed telecasts of the Southern Miss basketball team. In 1982, he handled play-by-play duties for the Golden Eagle football team and

2009 Award Winners

later switched back to delayed television broadcasts for the football team before assuming his current position.

Cox is also the host of the "Southern Miss Sports Today" television show with Head Football Coach Larry Fedora and Head Basketball Coach Larry Eustachy, pregame shows and the Golden Eagle Hotline radio call-in show. The Middleton, Ohio, native is a four-time recipient of the Mississippi's Sportscaster of the Year award and is the author of "Rock Solid," a book chronicling the history of Southern Miss football. Cox received his bachelor's degree in radio, television and film from Southern Miss in 1978. He has two daughters, Joye and Erin.

Herschel "Herky" Hardee '66

For much of his life, Herschel Hardee has dedicated his time to helping others and improving his community. Hardee is a past president of the Wayne County Chapter of the Alumni Association, but that is just one portion of his service to the University, his community and his country.

In 1980, Hardee was the recipient of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce Civil Servant Award for his outstanding contributions to the city of Waynesboro. Among other service, he worked 20 years as Chancery Clerk of Wayne County, is a past president of the Waynesboro Lions Club, the Wayne County Forestry Association and the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Hardee serves as a commissioner on the Natural Reserve Conservative Service board and director of the Wayne County Economic Development District board. He also serves as chairman of the East Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority.

Hardee's life of service extends well beyond the boundaries of Waynesboro to Iraq where he completed a tour of duty with the Mississippi Army National Guard during the Persian Gulf War. After 27 years of serving his country, Hardee retired from active duty with the Army National Guard.

Hardee is married to another Golden Eagle, the former Dinah Lee Douglas '69.

Clymer Wright '53

First as a student, then as an alumnus, Clymer Wright has maintained an active role in the life of the University.

As a student, he was editor of the *Student Printz*, a member of Phi Kappa Tau social fraternity, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity and a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

As an alumnus, Clymer is a strong supporter of the Eagle Club and the Lady Eagles basketball team. He serves on the advisory board of the College of Arts and Letters and was a contributor to the Ogletree House Campaign.

After serving two years in the U.S. Army, the Houston native returned home and used his journalistic skills to become an active member of the community. Wright published several weekly newspapers for 17 years before spending the next 16 years in the real estate business. Over the last two decades, he has developed a successful life and health insurance business and has become heavily involved in Texas politics. In 1980, Clymer served as the Texas finance chairman for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign.

In addition to his political career, Clymer also serves the Houston community as a member of the Texas Jaycees, the Exchange Club of Houston and the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness.

Bill Pace

The contributions to the University by Bill Pace, the former associate vice president for development and executive director of the USM Foundation will be felt for many years to come. As a staff member and volunteer, Pace has dedicated himself to the betterment of Southern Miss. In addition to his work at the University, he served on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors from 1995 to 2001 and was a board member for the USM Foundation from 1997 to 1999.

Pace remains active in the community; he recently served as executive director of the Greater Pinebelt Community Foundation and has maintained an active interest in the operations of the Alumni Association as an Ogletree House Campaign contributor. He is also a member of the Foundation's Founders Society.

Bill and his wife, Sue, the longtime director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the Hattiesburg Campus, reside in Hattiesburg.

Philip Pitts

Phillip Pitts, owner of Parris Jewelers in Hattiesburg, has been a proud supporter of the University and the Alumni Association for more than 21 years. Through advertising in the Association's publications, membership in the CARD (Current Alumni Retail Discount) Program and sponsorship of the Homecoming Golf Tournament, Pitts has helped to ensure that many of the organization's key initiatives are successful.

Pitts also supports the University's athletic department through advertising

and the purchase of season tickets for various sports. In addition, Pitts donates items to athletic teams and other campus groups for use in their fundraising efforts. Parris Jewelers has supported The Pride of Mississippi's Pregame Concert Series and is an active member of the Eagle Club.

Phillip is also a member of the Rotary Club. He and his wife, Lynn, reside in Petal with their three children: Mollie, Layton and Laci.

PATRICIA SUMRALL '90

Patricia Sumrall has turned her passion into profitable businesses that have served the Sumrall and Hattiesburg communities for more than 20 years. Sumrall is the owner of Sumrall Framing & Accessories and Westside Studio, LLC. Over the last two decades, Sumrall Framing & Accessories has become a valuable partner to the Alumni Association and the preferred framing and printing company for many museums and art galleries throughout the country.

Sumrall's second business, Westside Studio, LLC., has quickly become one of the premiere art studios in Hattiesburg. The studio provides many services including a bridal registry, art classes and framing.

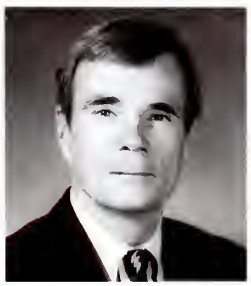
Aside from her businesses, Sumrall is also active in her community. She is a member of the Professional Picture Framing Association, Photo Marketing Association and the South Mississippi Art Association. Sumrall is also a member of the Area Development Partnership, where she served on the executive board of directors after leading the merger of the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce with the ADP. Sumrall is a member of the Alumni Association, which she serves as a member of the Eagle Fanfare committee, and is an Eagle Club member.

DAVE ESTORGE '96

David Estorge has more than 11 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, and since becoming the president of the Memorial Hospital Foundation in 2005, he has helped the foundation achieve its mission to assist Memorial Hospital in building a healthier community through the development of philanthropic support. Due largely to his efforts, the Memorial Hospital Foundation raised $13 million during the 17 months following Hurricane Katrina, and his success placed Estorge on the Biloxi *Sun Herald*'s Top 10 Business Leaders Under 40 list in 2008. Prior to Memorial Hospital, Estorge worked for St. Stanislaus and the USM Foundation.

Estorge currently serves on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and as chair of its Publications Board. Estorge is a member of the Gulf Coast Business Council. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1996 and went on to earn his master's degree in higher education administration from Florida State University. Estorge and his wife, Jaime, reside in Gulfport with their daughters Allie and Anders.

LUCKYDAY FOUNDATION



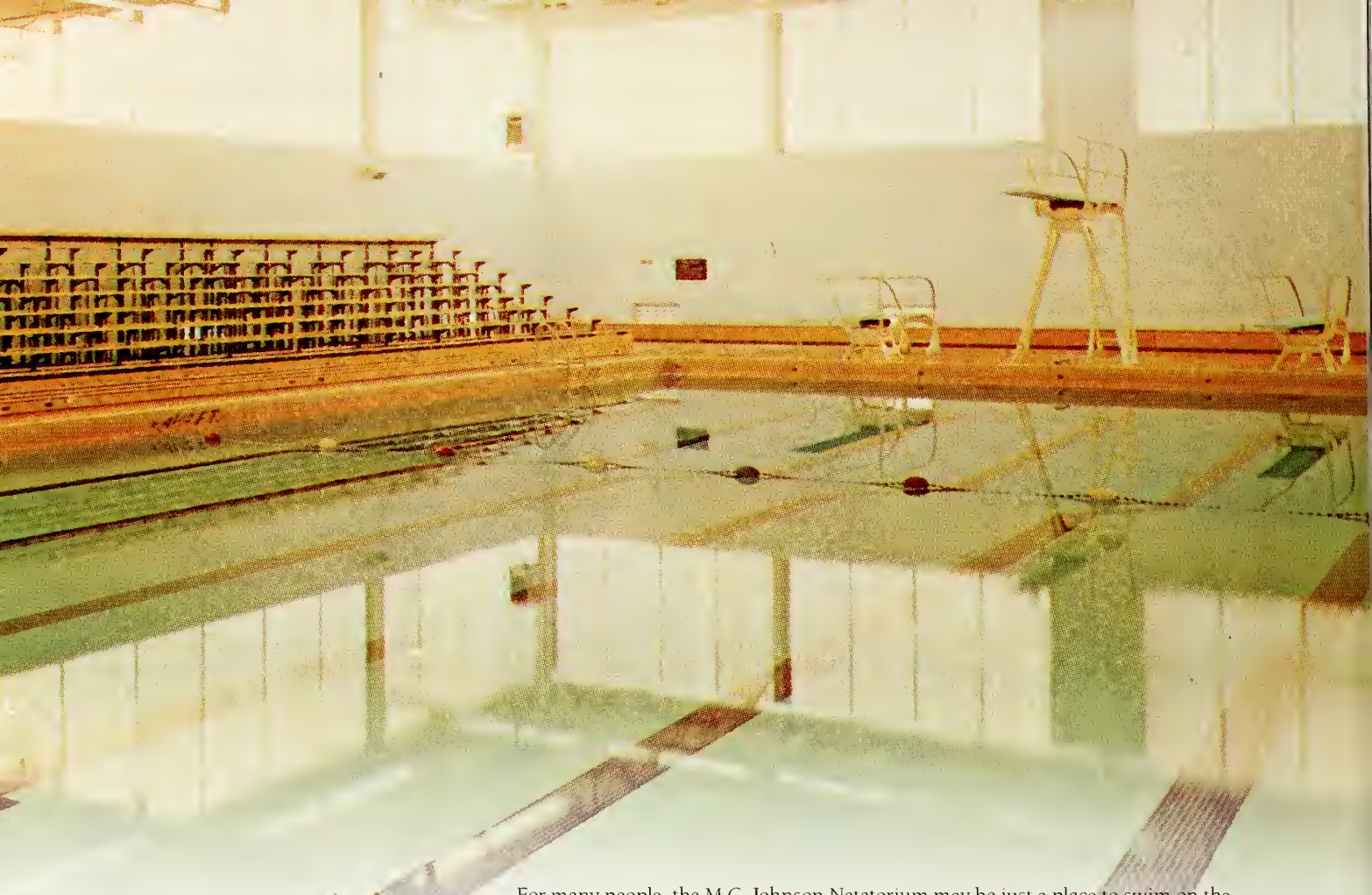
Few organizations have done more for Southern Miss students than the Luckyday Foundation. Established by the late Frank Rogers Day, pictured here, the Luckyday Foundation has given more than $8.5 million in scholarships for Southern Miss students through its Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholars Program. The program was created to provide deserving students with an opportunity to continue their education at a major university. To date, the foundation has awarded 834 scholarships with a value of $4,000 per year for four years. Luckyday Scholars are also eligible for an additional $4,000 scholarship to participate in study-abroad programs. Currently, The University of Southern Mississippi has 508 Luckyday Scholars.

The Luckyday Scholars program is more than academics. The program also emphasizes campus involvement and continued community service.

H. DAVID "DOC" ROBERTS

Although many distinguished alumni have contributed to the success of Golden Eagle athletics, few have done more than H. David Roberts. He is a lifetime member of the Athletic Foundation board of directors, the Circle of Champions and the M-Club Hall of Fame. In recognition of his contributions to Southern Miss athletics, the department created the H. David "Doc" Roberts Distinguished Service Award to annually honor the person who has made exceptional contributions to Southern Miss athletics. The Roberts family has helped in the building of the M-Club Building, the Athletic Center and the South End Zone Complex at The Rock, as well as many other projects.

Roberts served two terms on the USM Foundation's board, and in 1998, he was elected to the Alumni Hall of Fame. He was also the recipient of the Association's Continuous Service Award in 1995. Roberts is the chairman of Roberts Company Inc. and a Life Member of the Association. He and his wife, Carolyn, have three children: Ronald, Angela and Forrest.



In the Swim with M.C. Johnson

By Diane DeCesare Ross, '87, '97, '00

For many people, the M.C. Johnson Natatorium may be just a place to swim on the Hattiesburg Campus. However, when it was named in 1975, it honored a remarkable man who made an impact on The University of Southern Mississippi and the surrounding area.

The seventh of 10 children, Marion Clower Johnson was born in 1916 at Black Hawk (near Vaiden) in Carroll County, Mississippi. He graduated from Lexington High School; a football and basketball scholarship allowed him to continue his education at Holmes Junior College. Soon, he was recruited to play quarterback under Coach Reed Green and Assistant Coach Thad "Pie" Vann for the State Teachers College Yellow Jackets (which have now become the Southern Miss Golden Eagles). He called signals from the first string spinner back position, lettering for the college in the 1939 and 1940 seasons. His time on the football team coincided with a name change for the institution; as a result, he was on the last State Teachers College football team and on the first team for Mississippi Southern College.

As a student, Johnson worked for 22 cents an hour, helping to build a new stadium. The lower east side, pictured above in 1945, became the school's first athletic dormitory.

In addition to studying and playing football, Johnson worked alongside his teammates for 22 cents an hour, helping to build a new stadium. The lower east side of it became the school's first athletic dormitory. In his words, "When I first got here, we were in the process, they were, of building what we called 'The Rock.' And a lot of us football players worked part-time rolling buggies with concrete to help build that rock.

And I guess that's the reason it leaked, you know. And I don't think they ever found that leak."

Johnson not only lived in the stadium, he was credited with scoring the first touchdown there in 1939. As the 1940 yearbook described it, "The stubborn Troy aggregation held off all Jacket thrusts during the first quarter, but late in the period a 52-yard drive was begun which ended on the third play of the second quarter with the Teachers' first touchdown of the year, Clower Johnson going over from the two-yard line." The game ended in a 13-6 victory over Troy State.

There are some indications that Johnson got his nickname ("Tuffy") at Holmes Junior College, but in a 1995 interview, he expressed great affection for his coaches at Southern Miss and related the following story:

"I remember several times before a football game, I'd be dressed and sitting in there waiting to go out, and invariably Coach Vann would come and sit by me and just talk a little bit. And after a while he'd say, 'Are you tough?' And of course, you know I'd say, 'Yes, sir. I'm tough.' And he'd say, 'Well, let me see if you're tough,' and believe it or not, he would take his thumb and finger and catch my nose and squeeze it and say, 'Now look, if tears come into your eyes, you're not tough.' I'm telling you, I didn't know what to think about that...I tried not to let [tears come to my eyes], but I'm sure they did."

Johnson graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi Southern College in 1941. After serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he was offered a job at his alma mater, according to him, "really before I got out of my uniform." He joined the faculty in 1946. For the first six years, he worked at the Demonstration School on campus, supervising student teaching, directing physical education and coaching all the high school sports. In 1952, he became assistant professor of physical education. Johnson had a particular interest in aquatics. He did extensive work with the Red Cross, training and certifying hundreds of people in life-saving and water safety skills. As one of the founding members of the Mississippi Swimming and Diving Association, he served as that organization's first president and created its handbook and operational guidelines. Thousands of Mississippi children took to the water through a distinctive "Learn to Swim" program he developed on the Hattiesburg Campus. In his words, "They drove them in here by the [bus] loads from all over to get this program, which is an outgrowth of what I did some in the Army."

In 1970, he developed and organized the Department of Athletic Administration and Coaching at Southern Miss, which was the first such department in the country with a full curriculum offering a B.S. degree for coaches, athletic directors and those in related areas. Johnson was well-known throughout his home state and was invited by universities in other states to assist with developing athletic programs similar to that at Southern Miss. Johnson retired from The University of Southern Mississippi in June 1981.

After his retirement, he was asked for his advice to young athletes and offered these words of wisdom:

M.C. Johnson, pictured above in 1948, worked at the Demonstration School on campus for six years.

"We know and they know that [only] a small percentage of those are going to go on, succeed and go to the pros. And I'd tell them to play football as hard as you can, and if it happens, good, but if it doesn't, then you've got your degree. You do well in your studies, and you've got some way to make a living."

Johnson was recognized for his talents and service many times. He was a charter inductee of our institution's M-Club Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame in 1965, the same year that he received the Distinguished Service Citation of the Mississippi Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He was a selectee among Outstanding Educators of America in 1972, named Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1977, and inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 (the only swimming inductee). He also received the distinguished Service Award from the Southern Miss Athletic Department and was inducted into the Mississippi Coaches Hall of Fame.

M.C. "Tuffy" Johnson met his wife on the campus, and all four of his children attended classes there. When he died in 2006 at the age of 90, his life had been intricately tied to The University of Southern Mississippi for nearly 70 of those years. In 1995, he remarked on how much the institution meant to him:

"Even now, I drive over here sometimes just to ride around and look at this tree or that tree. And like I told somebody, I know about every sprig of grass that comes up and wonder why that bare spot is there. And so, I watch the growth and throw out my chest, and naturally you would feel that you had a part of it. I do, as many others did, and it's not through growing; it's just starting. That's another wonderful thing. It hasn't reached its capacity. It [hasn't] capped off by a long shot. It's going to grow and grow and I'm extremely proud of this university. I'm glad that I feel that way, and I'm glad that I wanted to stay in Hattiesburg. I didn't want to move anywhere; I wanted to stay right where I was and be able to come to the functions over here and see the growth and grow with them as long as I'm living."

Northrop Grumman Builds Bright Future for Southern Miss Students

A $21,000 gift from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding will help fund scholarships in the College of Science and Technology and College of Business, as well as help sponsor etiquette training events in the Career Services office.

Headquartered on the Gulf Coast, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding has partnered with Southern Miss to recruit and hire graduates for entry-level, co-op and intern positions. "Southern Miss is one of our top hiring schools," said Vicki Crockett, manger of university relations and recruiting for Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding – Gulf Coast. "We have recruited a number of successful hires from both the College of Business and the College of Science and Technology. We like to hire local students who are familiar with the Gulf Coast area."

Ten thousand dollars given to the College of Business will fund scholarships for students majoring in finance or accounting living in the College of Business Honors House. A portion of the gift will be used to support student activities in the Honors House Program. The College of Science and Technology will utilize its $10,000 gift to fund scholarships for students majoring in chemistry, polymer science, mathematics or any area of engineering technology.

"This gift will allow three students to become part of the most unique business education experience that Mississippi has ever seen," said Dr. Lance Nail, dean of the College of Business.

Northrop Grumman presented its donation at the fall Southern Miss Career Fair. From left are J.B. George '72; Vicki Crockett, manager of university relations and recruiting for Northrop Grumman; Dr. Joe Whitehead, interim dean of the College of Science and Technology; Rick Barlow '80; John Barber '80; and Gray Weinacker '04.

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where you need it
when you need it
in a *relaxed university setting*
professional atmosphere
convenient access
on *campus dining* venues
all in ONE LOCATION

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

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601.266.4399

Make a gift to Southern Miss and make a sound investment in someone's future.

Thanks to the support students like Sarah Ali and J.R. Robinson have received from donors like you, they have been able to focus their attention on their coursework rather than their financial strain. The degrees they earn will provide the edge they need to shape their futures and make an impact on the world.

Your support can help many other students struggling to stay in school due to financial hardship. Every dollar counts, so your continued support is more important, and more appreciated, than ever.

Invest in someone's future by visiting www.usmfoundation.com/annualfund or by calling 601.266.5602.

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Alumni Volunteers Invest in the Future of Southern Miss Students

From left are David Wolf, Michelle VanNorman, Martha Saunders and Raymond VanNorman. The VanNormans' gift benefits the Centennial Scholarship Endowment.

As The University of Southern Mississippi's Centennial Celebration continues, generous alumni and friends are leading the way in the Centennial Scholarship Endowment fundraising campaign. With a recent pledge of $100,000, Raymond and Michelle VanNorman of Madison are making an investment in the next 100 years at Southern Miss.

Michelle, who serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, sees the Centennial Scholarship Endowment as an imperative component to continuing the excellence of education at Southern Miss. Raymond currently serves as vice president of the USM Foundation Board of Directors. "We were both very fortunate to receive scholarships from Southern Miss and are happy to help students have access to the same excellent education we received," said Michelle. "Unrestricted funds will help Southern Miss to meet the scholarship needs of individuals and recruit top-notch students to our University. We have been very blessed in our life, so the opportunity to give back is one way of showing how thankful we are to have had the chance to attend such a wonderful university."

"Raymond and Michelle VanNorman are dedicated through their service and generosity to this University," said David Wolf, vice president for Advancement. "This gift exemplifies their long-term commitment to Southern Miss."

Created as a special initiative in conjunction with the University's Centennial in 2010, the Centennial Scholarship Endowment is aimed at ensuring the future lifeblood of the institution by increasing the availability of unrestricted, endowed scholarship support.

The campaign fundraising efforts began in March 2009 and will conclude on March 30, 2011. Southern Miss family, friends, alumni, current students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to participate in the campaign.

All donors to the Centennial Scholarship Endowment will be recognized on a donor recognition section of the Southern Miss Centennial Web site located at www.usm.edu/centennial. The list will accrue on a rolling basis throughout the life of the site. Donors of gifts $10,000 and greater will be appropriately recognized at a Centennial location on campus.

"The Centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime milestone opportunity to capitalize on the momentum that a celebration of this kind can create. Adding unrestricted scholarship resources is the number one fundraising priority of Southern Miss," said University President Martha Saunders. "We are grateful for the generosity of friends like Raymond and Michelle VanNorman, whose dedication to our University will continue to take Southern Miss to the Top!"

For more information or to make a gift to the Centennial Scholarship Endowment, contact the USM Foundation at 601.266.5602.

Former Dixie Darlings Captain Kicks Fundraising Campaign Into High Gear

The University of Southern Mississippi's Pride of Mississippi Marching Band and Dixie Darlings are $50,000 closer to reaching their fundraising goal to attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2010. Lawrence and Bonnie Warren of Hattiesburg, longtime supporters of the University, are now the lead donors in the fundraising campaign for the trip.

Lawrence and Bonnie Warren are pictured with Dixie Darlings (from left) Kristen Creal, Tasia Payadau, Kellie Stanecypher and Lee Armstrang.

Bonnie was a captain for the Dixie Darlings from 1959 to 1963. The Warrens hope The Pride and Dixie Darlings will enjoy continued success and national exposure in the years to come. "I have always been proud of the Dixie Darlings from my days as a captain until now," said Bonnie. "We want everyone to know how important The Pride and Dixie Darlings are to us."

The Pride must raise between $300,000 and $325,000 to fund their journey to New York City for the renowned parade. "It is because of special people like Mr. and Mrs. Warren that the Southern Miss dream of having The Pride of Mississippi in the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will become a reality," said director of The Pride of Mississippi, Mohamad Schuman.

One of the main fundraisers this year was the annual Prism Concert, which was held at the Lake Terrace Convention Center on Dec. 3. This year-end music celebration featured The Pride of Mississippi and studio ensembles with special guest appearances, including one by Santa Claus. A diamond giveaway from Parris Jewelers also took place at the event.

To support The Pride's journey to Macy's in 2010, visit www.usmfoundation.com/giving. For more information on The Pride, visit www.usm.edu/pride.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
FOUNDATION

For nearly 100 years, the generosity of Southern Miss families and friends has given students the opportunity to build a future rooted in world-class education. When you make a planned gift to Southern Miss, you continue the tradition of generosity for generations to come. Help build a legacy steeped in tradition by leaving the university in your will, estate or trust.

OUR LEGACY STARTS WITH YOU.

For more information, contact Keith R. Dale in our planned giving office at 601.266.5375.

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Basketball Teams Up and Down During Regular Season

Entering Conference USA tournament play in March both the men's and women's basketball teams found cause for optimism as the result of outstanding individual efforts despite tough setbacks on the court.

On the men's side, road victories at South Alabama, Louisiana-Lafayette and Montana State helped the team to an 8-1 start to the season. Losses in three-of-four games after that, though, dropped the Eagles to 9-4 entering their Conference USA opener at Marshall on Jan. 5. After a 0-4 start to conference play, the Golden Eagles fought back to even their league record at 8-8 entering the conference tournament.

Junior forward Gary Flowers, a second team All-Conference USA selection, led the team in scoring through the nonconference portion of the schedule with 14.8 points and 8.8 rebounds per game, ranking him in the top 10 in both categories among C-USA players. Maurice Bolden was second on the team with 12.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per game.

The men's Conference USA Tournament began on March 10 in Tulsa, Okla.

The Lady Eagles also had difficulty with some tough opponents early in the season, entering conference play at 4-9 despite big individual numbers from Pauline Love. Love, a senior, led Southern Miss in scoring and rebounding at 16.2 points and 12.1 boards per game. Love's work on the backboards was so strong that she ranked among the nation's leaders throughout the regular season.

While the women's team found the going tough on the road, they were able to put together an impressive winning streak at home, winning five straight at Reed Green Coliseum at one point.

The Conference USA Tournament was held in early March in Tulsa, Okla.

R.L. Horton and the Golden Eagles finished Conference USA play with an 8-8 record.

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 20,000 in 2010

2010

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Call for Nominations

Alumni Hall of Fame

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes those whose contributions of time and financial means have helped move Southern Miss forward. The nominee must have graduated from Southern Miss 15 years previously.

Nominations are being accepted through May 20, 2010. For more information, contact the Alumni Association at 601.266.5013, e-mail alumni@usm.edu, or use the form at SouthernMissAlumni.com.

International Board of Directors

Composed of 31 alumni, the board is the governing body for the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

Outstanding Service Award

Given to seven alumni based on their service to the University.

Continuous Service Award

Given to five alumni for their long-term efforts and dedication to Southern Miss.

Special Service Award

Given to individuals, not necessarily alumni, who have made a significant, unique contribution to the University, community or their profession.

Outstanding Young Alumnus / Alumna Award

Given to one alum 36 years of age or younger who has made contributions of time and effort to the University, community and their profession.

Meritorious Service Award

Given to one alum annually who has continued to give of his or her time and talents throughout the years to recognize outstanding alumni support, professional achievement, loyalty, and service to the University.

Friend of Southern Miss Award

Given to one individual annually who is not an alum, but has contributed greatly to the progress of Southern Miss throughout the years.

Ammons Recognized for Sportsmanship

Track and field standout Aaron Ammons was presented with an award by the NCAA during the Golden Eagles' men's basketball game against Memphis for his exemplary act of sportsmanship during a shot put competition last spring.

During an April 25 meet, Ammons was trying to achieve the regional qualifying mark of 16.80 meters. He threw 17.34 meters, well over the qualifying mark, but suspected the shot was not of legal weight. He weighed the shot, found that it was not the correct weight, and told his head coach, Kevin Stephen, he wanted to forfeit the throw. His eventual throw was not a regional qualifier, but three weeks later at the Conference USA Championship, he won the shot put event, thus earning an automatic bid to the regional championship.

The NCAA Sportsmanship Award honors student-athletes who, through their actions in the competitive arena of intercollegiate athletics, have demonstrated one or more of the ideals of sportsmanship, including fairness, civility, honesty, unselfishness, respect and responsibility. Selections are made by the NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct.

Ammons, a native of Brandon, was a Division I finalist for the 2009 NCAA Sportsmanship Award along with University of Oklahoma basketball student-athlete Blake Griffin and Division I winner Aleksandra Mackiewicz, a fencing student-athlete at Brown.

Aaron Ammons, third from left, was joined by Athletic Director Richard Giannini, left, an NCAA representative, and track and field coach Kevin Stephen, right, for the presentation of an award recognizing Ammons' outstanding act of sportsmanship.

Track and Field Coach Signs Extension

Track and field coach Kevin Stephen has signed a contract extension that runs through the 2012 academic year. Stephen is in his third season overseeing the women's cross country team as well as the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field squads.

Kevin Stephen

"We are pleased to have Kevin running our track and field program," Athletics Director Richard Giannini said. "Kevin continues to work hard each day on improving this program, and we wanted to reward him for those efforts."

Stephen earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in general business from Alabama in 1997 and an MBA from Southern Miss in 2001.

"Multi-year contracts in track and field are very rare," Stephen said. "By extending my contract, the University lets me know that I have the support I need to build a championship program here at Southern Miss. I am committed to this university and its athletes and look forward to the upcoming years and the success they will bring."

By the NUMBERS

A look at Brett Favre's stellar season

7
Number of interceptions thrown, the fewest in his career

7.9
Number of yards per pass attempt, the best of his career

33
Number of touchdowns thrown, the most he threw since his MVP season of 1997

68.4
His completion percentage, the best of his career

107.2
His quarterback rating, the best of his career

4,202
Number of yards thrown for, more than in either of his MVP seasons of 1996 or 1997

2010 GOLDEN EAGLE REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

April 1-3	vs. Saint Mary's
April 9-11	vs. UCF *
April 23-25	vs. Houston*
April 28	vs. South Alabama
May 7-9	vs. East Carolina*
May 18	vs. Mississippi State
May 20-22	vs. Memphis*

Neutral site opponents include vs. Mississippi (March 23) and Mississippi State (May 5) at Trustmark Park in Pearl and LSU (April 7) at Zephyr Stadium in New Orleans.

2010 LADY EAGLE REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

March 27-28	vs. UCF*
April 10-11	vs. Tulsa*
April 14	vs. South Alabama
April 21	vs. Nicholls State
April 24-25	vs. Marshall*
May 5	vs. Northwestern State (DH)
May 8-9	vs. UAB*

Schedule for all Conference USA series includes a doubleheader on the first day of play. The Lady Eagles also play a neutral site game against Mississippi in Ridgeland on April 6.

* Indicates Conference USA game.

After serving on farmer head coach Corky Palmer's staff as an assistant during the Golden Eagles' run to the College World Series in 2009, Scott Berry took over the top job in 2010.

Golden Eagle Baseball Team Begins Berry Era

The Golden Eagle baseball team began Scott Berry's first season as head coach with seven wins in their first 11 contests, highlighted by the first series win in school history at Louisiana-Lafayette.

Preseason Conference USA Pitcher of the Year Todd McInnis started strong on the mound again for Southern Miss, earning the conference's pitcher of the week honor for his season-opening performance against Northwestern State on Feb. 19 and throwing eight shutout innings against Louisiana-Lafayette on March 5. Scott Copeland also pitched well early in the season, posting a 2-0 record in his first three starts.

At the plate, seven Golden Eagles were hitting .300 or better through 11 games, led by shortstop B.A. Vollmuth, who was hitting .476 and Joey Archer, who was hitting .415.

Softball Starts Season Strong

The Lady Eagle softball team began their 2010 campaign with a pair of tournament wins and a victory over then-No. 19 Florida State. Southern Miss, 12-6 through 18 games, won the Sunshine State Classic, hosted by Florida State, as well as the Southern Miss Invitational.

Jill Mathis led the team with a .439 batting average, while Leslie LeJune had a .338 average. Mathis also hit a team-leading nine doubles. Megan Hill and Alexis Hurley rounded out the Lady Eagles' leading hitters with .318 and .310 batting clips, respectively.

The Southern Miss pitching staff had a team ERA of 2.15 with a combined 120 strikeouts. Freshman Gabby Luciani had pitched 57.2 innings with 70 Ks and a 4-2 record.

Senior outfielder Megan Hill was the preseason Conference USA Player of the Year.

1910
SOUTHERN MISS
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ASSOCIATION
20,000 in 2010

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Tradition | Pride | Loyalty | Excellence

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2008-2009 fiscal year was indeed positive and exciting for The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association. While there are always challenges to be faced, the volunteer leadership and staff of the Alumni Association continued to work in the best interests of our alumni and our University.

We accomplished much, and we have even more planned for 2010 in connection with the University's Centennial Celebration. While I cannot cover all of our accomplishments and initiatives here, I would like to highlight a few.

In September 2009, we cut the ribbon on the restored and expanded Ogletree House following a $4 million, 20-month construction project. The 12,800-square-foot Ogletree House has been restored back to its original glory in addition to being expanded and enhanced with improved functionality. The re-opening of the Ogletree House is truly a significant milestone for the Alumni Association, and we look forward to it serving our needs while honoring a devoted leader and good friend for decades to come.

This summer, *The Talon* was recognized as the top institutional magazine in the state by the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. This proves what we have all known for years, that our alumni magazine is the best in the state without question and is on par with any alumni association publication of its kind anywhere in the country.

As you know, in conjunction with the plans for celebrating the University's 100th Anniversary, the Alumni Association is in the midst of reaching a milestone of its own. We have been working on the 20,000 in 2010 Membership Campaign to grow the Association's membership to 20,000 by the Centennial Celebration in March. I am pleased to report that as of June 30, active membership in the Association stood at 18,612. Our goal is within reach.

Finally, one of the most exciting initiatives perhaps to ever occur for the institution is the Centennial Celebration of 2010. The Centennial Celebration Steering Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Alvin Williams and former Alumni Association President Rex Kelly, with Dr. Aubrey Lucas serving as Honorary Chair, has put a plan in place to ensure we have an incredible celebration of the University's 100th anniversary. The Alumni Association, in conjunction with Centennial Coordinator Jennifer Payne and Centennial Special Projects Manager Ray Guy, is playing a critical role in the celebration.

If you have not been to USM in the last few years, I invite you to come see the huge improvements in facilities at our Hattiesburg Campus. There have been many new buildings added and improved green space. Congratulations to all who helped to provide the leadership, hard work and funding that allowed The University of Southern Mississippi to continue to meet the educational needs of a new generation of Mississippi's best and brightest students in a campus environment that is truly state-of-the-art.

Many of you have children or grandchildren that will be attending the college or university of their choice in the very near future and you owe it to them to visit our University. Our USM legacies are some of our greatest assets and we must do all we can to have them enjoy the experience and educational excellence that we did. Please use the card included in this *Talon* and give us the names of individuals you would like recruited. We can assist in having the University set up tours, speak to prospective students and give an exceptional recruiting experience to those we call "our own." There is a feeling around USM today unlike anything I have ever experienced before. I invite you to come to a baseball/softball game this spring and enjoy a weekend on campus. You have to see it and experience it to believe it!

The Association is growing and making an impact on our beloved Alma Mater. Let me remind you at this point that we can only continue this progress with your continued support and involvement. Southern Miss is enjoying an exciting and promising time in its history, and the Alumni Association is contributing to that experience. Because of you, we are great now, but we can be even better in the future.

Southern Miss to the Top!

Curt L. Hébert, Jr.
President

The Alumni Association and the Ogletree House: Bigger and Better in 2008-09

Record-breaking membership, a bigger and better home for Southern Miss alumni on the Hattiesburg Campus, the top university magazine in the state—those are just a few of the Alumni Association's accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2008-09. And while it would be difficult to decide which goal achieved or dream realized ranks at the top of the list, the completion of the Ogletree House Campaign and subsequent construction project is certainly among the greatest accomplishments in the organization's history.

In all, more than 850 alumni and friends contributed more than $3 million toward the expansion and restoration of the campus landmark, which houses the operations of the Alumni Association. And while the fundraising campaign concluded in 2007, Fiscal Year 2008-09 was marked by the progress of construction, which not only expanded the facility to some 13,000-square feet, but also returned the historic portion of the nearly 100-year-old structure to its original glory.

"You are most likely familiar with our theme of 'Creative. Bold. Determined.'" University President Dr. Martha Saunders said upon the occasion of the ribbon cutting for the new facility in September 2009. "This project embodies all of those qualities. We were creative in our design, bold in our vision to generate the funding for construction, and determined to make the project come to fruition, regardless of natural disasters or economic turmoil."

Saunders was one of two featured speakers during the ribbon cutting. Joining her on the podium was alumnus Randy Pope, a former president of the Alumni Association and chair of the project's building committee. Pope reminded those gathered for the ceremony what the completed facility says about the importance of the project to Southern Miss and its alumni.

"The Ogletree House says that our alumni love the University," Pope said. "It says that the University and its alumni and friends value our history and are planning for our future. The Alumni Association could have walked away from this old building with its antiquated wiring system and cramped offices, but we chose not to. We chose to restore the building to its 1912 condition and exapand it by several thousand square feet. And the expansion is not just functional; like the original building, it is beautiful."

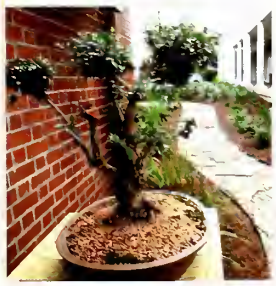
"The Ogletree House says that our alumni love the University. It says that the University and its alumni and friends value our history and are planning for our future."

- Randy Pope
BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The completion of the project was particularly impressive given that the fundraising campaign began just weeks prior to Hurricane Katrina's landfall, impacting the majority of Southern Miss alumni. Fundraising efforts were suspended for six months, and when they resumed, loyalty to Alma Mater was never more evident. As a result of the generosity of hundreds who love Southern Miss and the building's namesake, Powell G. Ogletree, who served as alumni director for 34 years, the project was completed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the original use of the Ogletree House was as a home for the institution's president. The staff of the Alumni Association first occupied the facility in 1976.



This bonsai tree is featured in the Rotary Garden at the Ogletree House. Joe Bailey, husband of University President Martha Saunders harvested a shrub from the Ogletree House grounds prior to construction and created the bonsai.

COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADES BENEFIT ALUMNI AND GARNER AWARD

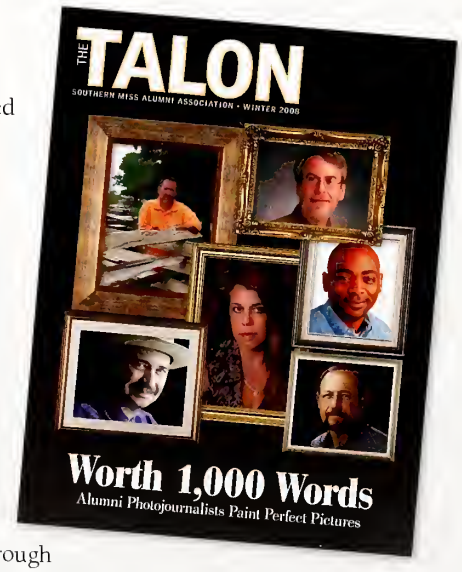
Upgrades across a number of Alumni Association communication vehicles both improved service to Southern Miss alumni and gained the recognition of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

In May, the quarterly magazine of the Alumni Association, *The Talon*, was recognized by CPRAM with top honors in the Institutional Magazine category, a division that included a variety of submissions, including other Alumni Association magazines from four-year colleges across the state.

The judges, who were from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, said the category was "...one of the hardest categories to judge. All the entries were masterful; there were definitely no losers." Second and third place went to Mississippi State's College of Engineering's *Momentum* and MSU's Agricultural Communication's *Landmarks* magazine, respectively.

The award came after the Association expanded and refreshed the graphic design of the publication throughout 2008, the publication year from which editions were judged.

While improvements to *The Talon* were recognized by CPRAM, the Association also refined its electronic communications with alumni in Fiscal Year 2008-09. The organization switched host vendors for its Web site and e-mail accounts to iModules and Google, respectively, resulting in improved functionality for each. While users of the site SouthernMissAlumni.com may not have noticed many changes from a design standpoint, the e-mail change was obvious both visually and functionally. SouthernMissAlumni.com e-mail account holders now have access to 600 times more storage space and can utilize many of Google's other tools, including Google chat and Google documents, through their SouthernMissAlumni.com e-mail account.



Finally, the Association added a Twitter account to its social networking communication efforts. Southern Miss alumni and friends can follow the Association at twitter.com/usmalumni for University and Alumni Association updates.

RECORD MEMBERSHIP MOVES USMAA CLOSER TO GOAL

Just as one monumental initiative was coming to a close as the Association's staff moved back into the restored and expanded Ogletree House, a second was gaining momentum.

Bolstered by efforts related to the 20,000 in 2010 campaign, the Association boasted a membership total of 18,612 at the conclusion of the fiscal year, a record for participation in the organization.

"Without question this is a significant accomplishment for the Association," Associate Director for External Affairs Jerry DeFatta said. "More important, though, is the positive effect a growing membership base has on the advancement of The University of Southern Mississippi."

Membership dues help to support a number of programs and initiatives of the Association, including scholarships for the children and grandchildren of alumni, chapter and constituent society events across the country, the preservation of the University's important history and traditions, and more.

With an eye on the goal of 20,000 members by the Centennial Celebration of 2010, DeFatta sees that number growing throughout Fiscal Year 2009-10.

"Southern Miss alumni should take pride in this considerable display of loyalty to their alma mater—18,612 is an impressive number," he said. "Nevertheless, we do not want that record to stand for long. We want to announce a new mark in 2010, one that is more than 20,000."

An important segment of the enlarging membership number is The Legacy, the student chapter of the Alumni Association, which grew to more than 1,000 members for the first time in 2008-2009.

PEETS BUFFETT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NAMED

The history and traditions of The University of Southern Mississippi are well-documented. Whether it is the Dixie Darlings kicking their way onto Carlisle-Faulkner Field prior to a Golden Eagle football game or the beauty of the All-American Rose Garden, Southern Miss alumni can find much to be proud of concerning their alma mater.

Perhaps one of the most important traditions of the University, though, is a willingness to help current students succeed through financial assistance toward tuition. The Alumni Association plays a role in that effort through local chapter scholarships, scholarships for select children and grandchildren of alumni, and out-of-state fee waivers for children of alumni who meet certain criteria. In Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Association began its management of a scholarship fund in the memory of an alumna with a recognizable last name.

Mary Loraine Peets Buffett Scholarships in the amount of $5,000 each (which may be renewed annually for up to four years) were awarded to Alex Gieger of Laurel and Devin Ladner of Diamondhead in April. Peets, as she was known by her friends and family, was a 1940 graduate of Gulf Park College for Women (now the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus in Long Beach) and is the mother of perhaps the University's most famous alumnus, Jimmy Buffett '69. Lucy Buffett, daughter of Peets and brother to Jimmy, attended the scholarship announcement.

"My mother instilled the love of learning in all of her children, and we are truly blessed to be able to share her philosophy and spirit with women from her home state," she said at the announcement.

"My mother instilled the love of learning in all of her children, and we are truly blessed to be able to share her philosophy and spirit with women from her home state."

- Lucy Buffett

Originally designated specifically for women from the Gulf Coast who enrolled at the Gulf Park Campus, recent changes to the scholarship endowment parameters now allow students statewide who enroll at either that campus or the Hattiesburg Campus to be eligible. To date, seven women have benefitted from Peets Buffett scholarships totaling more than $25,000.

The Association also awarded a pair of $1,000 scholarships through the Legacy Scholars Program, which was named in honor of executive director Bob Pierce in October 2008. Receiving those awards were Jordan Mathews of Biloxi and Laura Perry of Hattiesburg.

Applications for scholarships managed by the Alumni Association are due March 15 of each year.

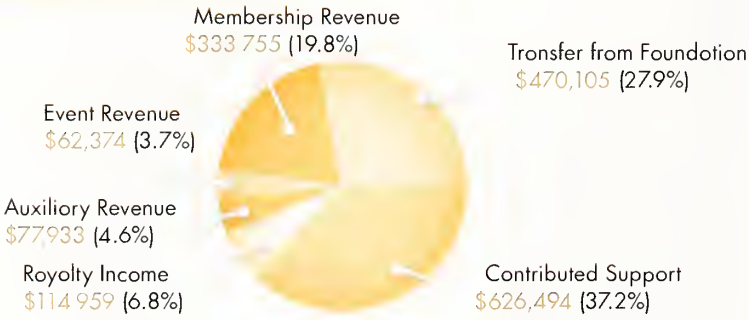
Alex Gieger at Laurel, second from left, and Devin Ladner of Diamondhead, third from left, were the 2009 recipients of the Mary Loraine Peets Buffett Scholarship. Gieger, a student at West Jones High School, and Ladner, from Hancock High School, joined Peets' daughter Lucy, right, and University President Dr. Martha Saunders, far left, at the announcement.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the majority of proceeds for the Legacy Scholars Fund are generated through the Shell Finish Line Homecoming Golf Tournament? In 2009, the tournament was held for the second time at Hattiesburg Country Club.

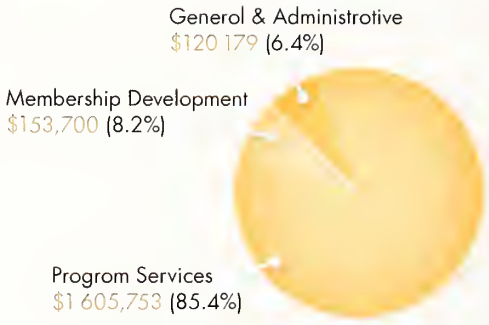
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009



TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

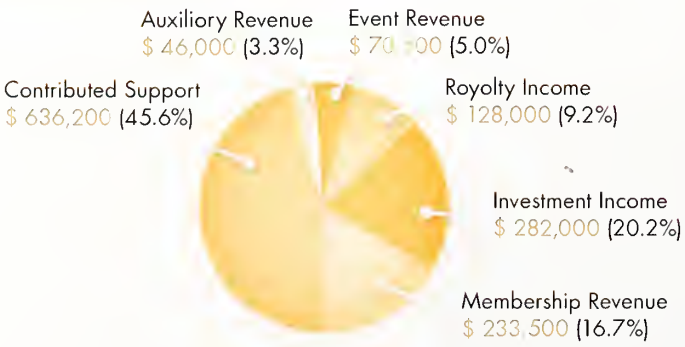
	$ 1,685,625
Loss on investments	$ 290,367
	$1,395,258



TOTAL EXPENSES

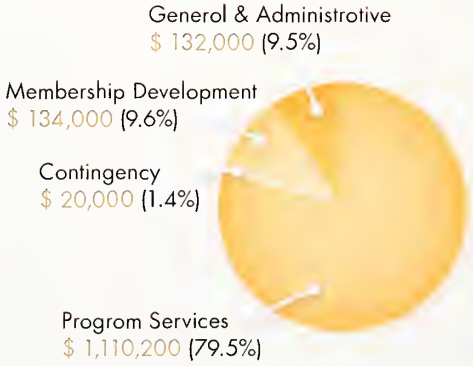
$ 1,879,632

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010



TOTAL INCOME AND OTHER SUPPORT

$1,396,200



TOTAL EXPENSES

$1,396,200

ABOUT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi in 1955 by then Executive Secretary Powell G. Ogletree. As of June 30, 2009, the conclusion of the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the Alumni Association reported total assets of $3,397,547 and a total membership of 18,612. The 18,612 members represent 20.1 percent of the University's 92,530 alumni-of-record. According to the Council of Alumni Association Executives, the national average of alumni participation in the leading alumni associations in the country is approximately 18 percent.

ASSETS

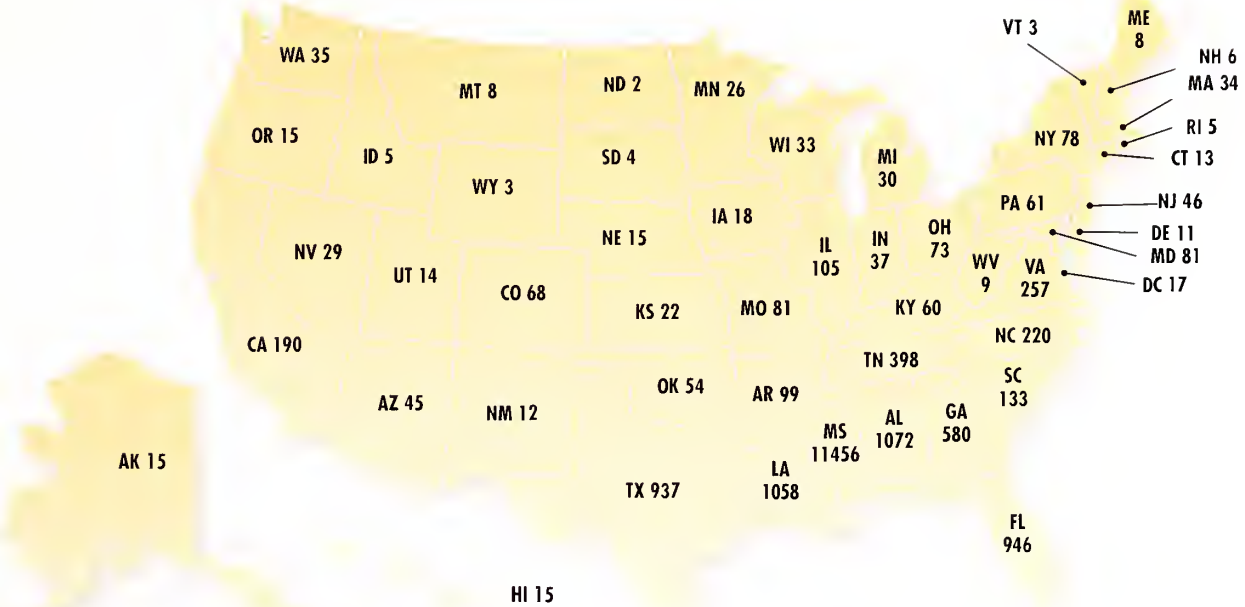
Current Assets	$1,241,246
Investments	$2,109,549
Total Property and Equipment	$ 46,752
Total Assets	**$ 3,397,547**

LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	$ 635,815
Noncurrent Liabilities (Deferred Revenue)	$ 64,871
Total Net Assets	$2,696,861
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$ 3,397,547**

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is comprised of members from all 50 states and numerous countries outside of the United States. Its 18,612 members are residents of the states below.



Outside of the United States – 52

ACTIVE YEARS

of Annual Membership in the Alumni Association*

Number of Years	Number of Members
0-4	6,179
5-9	2,663
10-14	1,460
15-19	911
20-24	820
25 and more	2,342

* Does not include Life Members

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that a membership participation percentage of more than 20 percent of all graduates ranks the Southern Miss Alumni Association well above the average for the top alumni associations in the country, according to figures from the Council of Alumni Association Executives?

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
118 College Drive #5013
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5013

Phone: 601.266.5013 | Fax: 601.266.4214
southernmissalumni.com | alumni@usm.edu

Eagle Club Membership has its Benefits

Tried the new Eagle Club membership card? The savings throughout Mississippi are proving to be a real benefit. The Eagle Club is currently expanding its list of the businesses that are offering a premium special for Eagle Club members when they present their membership card.

SOUTHERN MISS
EAGLE CLUB MEMBER

Alumni who own or are involved with an Eagle Club/ISP sponsor are invited to include their business as a part of this opportunity for Eagle Club members. The current list of businesses and their offers can be found on the Eagle Club page of SouthernMiss.com. To join the Eagle Club or to add a business to the membership card program, call 601.266.5299.

While many Eagle Club members contribute to Southern Miss in order to support an excellent athletic program, there are a number of benefits to membership beyond the card program, including premium seating and priority parking for football and basketball games at Southern Miss. The best seating areas in M.M. Roberts Stadium and Reed Green Coliseum are reserved for Eagle Club members.

Cookoff to Highlight EagleFest Weekend

New initiatives taking place surrounding Southern Miss football are making it more fun than ever to be a Golden Eagle fan.

First, at this year's Black and Gold Spring Football Game on Saturday, April 10, the athletic department will host an inaugural Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned cook-off sponsored by the Attack. The cook-off and spring game will highlight a weekend's worth of events on the Hattiesburg Campus. Not only will alumni and fans gain a glimpse of the Golden Eagles who will battle on Saturdays this coming fall, but the baseball and softball teams will also host weekend series at The Pete and USM Softball Complex, respectively. The baseball team, coming off the greatest season in school history and featuring Conference USA Preseason Pitcher of the Year Todd McInnis, will host Conference USA's UCF on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 9-11, while the softball team, featuring Conference USA Preseason Player of the Year Megan Hill, hosts conference-rival Tulsa on Saturday and Sunday.

Second, while the second weekend in April is the perfect time to support three Golden Eagle teams at once, anytime is perfect for smaller Golden Eagles to get in touch with their favorite football player. Children from kindergarten through sixth grade can become a pen pal with a player by selecting the Pen Pal banner on the football page at SouthernMiss.com.

Finally, Seymour's Sidekicks is also a great way for the children and grandchildren of alumni to get involved with the Black and Gold. Membership is $25 per child, or $60 for three or more children. It includes a Seymour's Sidekicks t-shirt; membership card; discounted admission to men's basketball and baseball games; free admission to women's basketball, volleyball, soccer and more. Contact the Eagle Club at 601.266.5299 for more information, or download the form from the "Kids Club" page at SouthernMiss.com.

Bank Draft Option Available for Eagle Club Dues

Why wait till the deadline to join the 2010 Eagle Club? To maintain seating and parking priority for the 2010 football season, Eagle Club memberships should be fully paid by May 1, 2010. Eagle Club memberships can be paid in installments with the only requirement that the final installment is paid by May 1, 2010. Eagle Club memberships can also be paid through bank draft, with payments made directly through a checking account on a monthly installment plan. Call the Eagle Club at 601.266.5299 for more information on membership or the installment plan.

Symphony Orchestra, Choral Ensembles Bring Holiday Cheer to Children's Center

The Holiday Choral Spectacular featured the Symphony Orchestra and Southern Miss choral ensembles.

Sounds of the season reverberated throughout the sanctuary at Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg as the Symphony Orchestra presented its Holiday Choral Spectacular on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

In addition to the Symphony Orchestra, the special evening of music also featured the combined voices of the Hattiesburg Choral Union and Meistersingers, Carillon handbell choir and other choral ensembles.

A portion of the proceeds benefited The Children's Center for Communication and Development at Southern Miss.

"Besides the obvious benefit of additional resources for our young students with disabilities, we were privileged and honored to be in the company of the Southern Miss Symphony Orchestra and choirs," said Margaret Buttross-Brinegar, Children's Center director.

"Our partnership continues to shine the spotlight on all children this holiday season, but in particular, our children who are challenged daily in their communication and development."

The holiday collaboration between the Symphony Orchestra and Children's Center has turned into an annual event that provides a rewarding payoff for both parties. The Symphony Orchestra has a long history of educational outreach, and this is an extension of that commitment. Jennifer Hart, marketing and educational outreach coordinator with the Symphony Orchestra, said the Holiday Choral Spectacular served as the ideal Christmas gift.

"In this stressful economic time, I think it would be a great idea to give tickets to this event to friends and family so that those of us who have more than we need can help these children and their families," Hart said.

The Children's Center, a United Way agency, is an early intervention program serving communicatively and developmentally delayed children from infancy through age 5. Direct services are provided to more than 70 children and their families from 18 counties in the state, while training University students in speech and hearing sciences and other allied health disciplines.

Upcoming Department of Theatre and Dance Events Include "Macbeth"

Sean Scrutchins, as Mr. Darcy, is amused by Elizabeth Darcy, Callie Stephens, as they rehearse a scene from John Jorry's "Pride and Prejudice." The classic Jane Austen romantic novel was brought to life in a fast-paced and highly theatrical adaptation at Martha R. Tatum Theatre in November. Upcoming theatre events include "Macbeth," March 25-28, 31-April 1.

Award-Winning Author Neil White Visits Students

Rarely do students have the opportunity to actually meet and speak with the author of a book assigned in class. On Nov. 14, Gonzales Auditorium overflowed with Southern Miss students excited to hear first-hand testimony from the author of "In the Sanctuary of Outcasts," a memoir assigned as required reading by associate professor of philosophy Samuel Bruton. Two sections of Bruton's business ethics course read this book during the fall 2009 semester.

"In many ways, the book is an unusual choice for a business ethics class. Most of the story happens at a combination prison/leprosarium, but I didn't mind that," said Bruton. Political science and entrepreneurship double major Christopher James, a native of Vicksburg, found White's memoir to be an excellent selection for the class. "I never heard a story like that before. It gives an inside look into white-collar crime, and having him come speak to us added an extra element to this learning experience. So, if we ever get into a situation like that, we actually got to hear from someone who has been through it."

Bruton assigned this memoir to the class for different reasons. "Unfortunately, a lot of academic discussion of business ethics implies that business is a distinct realm with values of its own, as though ethics in business should be completely different from the ethics of other aspects of our lives. I wanted students to see a connection between the two."

White's memoir retraces the journey he faced while serving one year in a federal prison for committing bank fraud. Like most people, White enjoyed the finer things in life: a nice home, expensive cars and fashionable clothing. Dedicated to maintaining his outward image of perfection, White soon found himself drowning in a sea of bouncing checks with the FBI knocking on his door.

Neil White, author of "In the Sanctuary of Outcasts" discusses his memoir with an audience of students and faculty in Gonzales Auditorium.

Southern Miss Attracts High School Students to the Arts

Hundreds of high school students visited Southern Miss during the month of November to audition and get a sneak peek of college life.

Students planning to pursue a degree in music at Southern Miss were invited to audition for instrumental, orchestral and choral scholarships and service awards.

"We traditionally attract a culturally diverse student body of musicians, creating the opportunity for the integration of cultures while performing with some of the best young musicians in the world," said Dr. Michael A. Miles, director of the School of Music.

Prospective students and their families enjoyed a full day of on-campus activities that included a campus tour, meetings with the Office of Admissions, Department of Residence Life and Office of Financial Aid. In addition to learning the ins and outs of campus life, these students also met with professors in their specific areas of interest.

Molly Peresich, foreground, a dance education major from Ocean Springs, leads a group of dancers preparing to teach hundreds of students who come to the Hattiesburg Campus as part of the Young People's Matinee. The matinee is an interactive lecture-demonstration for school-aged children

The Department of Theatre and Dance hosted High School Dance Day (HSDD) Nov. 6 for 85 high school students interested in studying dance at Southern Miss. For over a decade, the Southern Miss Dance program has conducted HSDD, which included discussion about life as a dance major, audition requirements and performance opportunities.

The Young People's Matinee (YPM) is another recruiting event held biannually by the Southern Miss Dance program to expose young students to the arts and the power of dance. Molly Peresich, a junior dance education major from Ocean Springs, helped teach students.

McCorty received o hero's welcome wherever she troveled. This photo wos token upon her return to the Hub City following Horvord University's honoring of McCarty with on honorory degree.

Photos Courtesy of University Archives.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Mississippians are known for many things, and when the index is related to music, athletics or generosity, the state's residents often reside at the top. In a region with a reputation for giving, perhaps the most spectacular gift was presented to The University of Southern Mississippi some 15 years ago.

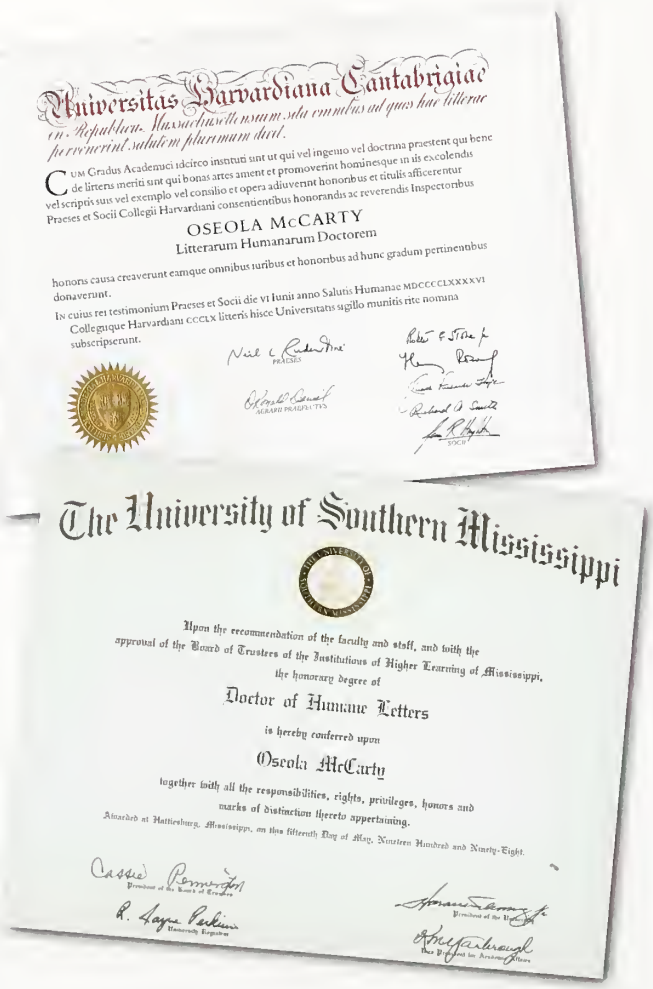
In 1995, Oseola McCarty gained national attention with her gift to the institution of $150,000, an amount that represented a majority of her life savings. "The Gift" caught the attention of everyone across the country it seemed, and soon she was being honored by President Bill Clinton, carrying the Olympic torch, receiving honorary doctor of human letters degrees from both Southern Miss and Harvard University, appearing on the "Oprah Winfrey Show," and helping New York City Mayor Rudolph Guilliani drop the ball in Times Square on New Years Eve. To be sure, her itinerary would have made Brett Favre's or Jimmy Buffett's assistant ask for a raise.

McCarty's gift is still giving a decade and a half later. Since her contribution, 27 students have benefitted from scholarships in her name, including six in 2009. Although McCarty passed away in 1999, she is remembered today as she was then—as a selfless woman whose faith in God led her to a gift of generosity few others would even consider.

"People flocked to her," said Jewel Tucker, an assistant in the University President's office who often accompanied McCarty on trips in the years following her gift. "There was not a place we could go where they did not love her."

Those people included the most famous and powerful men and women in the world. Tucker recalled McCarty's meetings with President Clinton, "She said to him, 'You're taller than I thought you were;'" Oprah Winfrey, "Oprah said how pleased she was to meet her and that she was from Mississippi too;" and Ted Turner, "He had a booming voice, and when he saw her he said, 'Oseola,' and she just shook. He said, 'I guess you know that you're my hero.'"

Among other honors received by McCarty, Bill Clinton presented her with the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor.



Universitas Harvardiana Cantabrigiae

OSEOLA McCARTY

Litterarum Humanarum Doctorem

honoris causa creaverunt eamque omnibus iuribus et honoribus ad hunc gradum pertinentibus donaverunt.

In cuius rei testimonium Praeses et Socii die VI Iunii anno Salutis Humanae MDCCCCLXXXXVI Collegiique Harvardiani CCCLX litteris hisce Universitatis sigillo munitis rite nomina subscripserunt.

The University of Southern Mississippi

Upon the recommendation of the faculty and staff, and with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi, the honorary degree of

Doctor of Humane Letters

is hereby conferred upon

Oseola McCarty

together with all the responsibilities, rights, privileges, honors and marks of distinction thereto appertaining.

Awarded at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on this fifteenth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight.

Among the honors bestowed on McCarty were honorary degrees from The University of Southern Mississippi and Harvard University.

It was a fairly tale, said Bud Kirkpatrick, then the director of public relations for the University.

"To have been, almost overnight, plucked from her small humble home and wash pot into the national limelight—she was amazing," Kirkpatrick said. "The nation absolutely embraced her. People sent money to be part of what she did. Tons of letters thanking her came in—just an outpouring of thanks and amazement."

Fifteen years later, Kirkpatrick said the memories of McCarty and her gift still resonate.

"I think of her a lot in different situations. Particularly, I think of her on New Years Eve, when I see the events from Times Square on television. I will never forget the news conference they had for her while in New York. There were about 20 TV station crews, as many radio stations and print people. It lasted more than two hours. She fielded each question in her own way and her own time. When I told her we were going to New York and what we would do, I asked her if she had ever stayed up to ring in the new year. She responded, 'Why would anyone want to do that?'"

While the stories surrounding McCarty's travels are interesting in their own right, the story of her gift deserves re-telling for sure.

McCarty went to school at Eureka Elementary School. Even as a young child, she worked, though, and her savings habit started early.

"I would go to school and come home and iron," she said at the time of her gift in 1995. "I'd put money away and save it. When I got enough, I went to First Mississippi National Bank and put it in. The teller told me it would be best to put it in a savings account. I didn't know. I just kept on saving."

When McCarty was in the sixth grade, her childless aunt was admitted to the hospital, and McCarty, in her words, "had to go and wait on her. When she came out of the hospital, she couldn't walk, and she needed me."

McCarty never returned to school. "All my classmates had gone off and left me," she said, "so I didn't go back. I just washed and ironed."

Over the years, she put money into several local banks. While banks merged and changed names and management, McCarty's savings grew.

Her grandmother died in 1944; her mother died in 1964; her aunt died in 1967, "and I've been havin' it by myself since then," she said. Her mother and her aunt each left her some money, which she added to her savings. In 1947 her uncle gave her the house in which she lived until her death.

Bank personnel, realizing that McCarty was accumulating sizeable savings, advised her to put her money into CD's, conservative mutual funds and other accounts where it would work for her.

Meanwhile, McCarty washed and ironed and lived frugally. Nancy Odom and Ellen Vinzant of Trustmark Bank, who had worked with McCarty for several years, referred Miss McCarty to Paul Laughlin, Trustmark's assistant vice president and trust officer.

McCarty carried the Olympic torch on its way to Atlanta for the 1996 Olympic Games.

"She said she wanted to leave the bulk of her money to Southern Miss, and she didn't want (anybody) to come in and change her mind," Laughlin said at the time. "I called Jimmy Frank McKenzie, her attorney—she's done laundry for him for years—and he talked to her. He made sure it was her idea. Then I met with her to let her decide how to divide her money up."

What happened next is now part of Southern Miss legend.

Laughlin placed 10 dimes on a table to represent portions of her savings. He then asked McCarty how she wanted her money to be split up. She allocated one dime for her church three others for relatives. She then said she wanted the rest, six dimes, to go to Southern Miss.

"I just want the scholarship to go to some child who needs it, to whoever is not able to help their children," McCarty said at the time. "I'm too old to get an education, but they can."

With her legacy already assured of growing as the number of scholarship winners increases over the years, McCarty's spirit is also recorded in two books, "The Riches of Oseola McCarty," a children's book written by Evelyn Coleman, and McCarty's book "Simple Wisdom for Rich Living," published in 1996. "Simple

"I just want the scholarship to go to some child who needs it, to whoever is not able to help their children, I'm too old to get an education, but they can."

McCarty's gift attracted media attention almost immediately, as the nation was both intrigued and awed by her gift.

It was God who told McCarty, a woman of deep faith, to give "The Gift" to Southern Miss, according to Jewel Tucker, a Southern Miss employee who traveled with McCarty in the years following McCarty's contribution.

Wisdom" is a collection of McCarty's views and insights on work, faith, saving, relationships and good living. Shannon Maggio, who edited the book for Longstreet Press of Atlanta, spent four days with McCarty, and the interviews resulted in 112 pages of brilliance.

Some samples include: her thoughts on work, "I knew there were people who didn't have to work as hard as I did, but it didn't make me feel sad. I loved to work, and when you love to do anything, those things don't bother you;" on saving money, "A smart person plans for the future. You never know what kind of emergency will come up, and you can't rely on the government to meet all your needs. You have to take responsibility for yourself;" and on good living, "There's a lot of talk about self-esteem these days. It seems pretty basic to me. If you want to feel proud of yourself, you've got to do things you can be proud of. Feelings follow actions."

Following her death in 1999, e-mails from across the country were displayed at usm.edu.

Susan Sharp of Sneads Ferry, N.C., the first person to e-mail, wrote to tell how she was "inspired by (McCarty's) humility and uncomplicated view of the way things should be."

W.L. Jenkins of San Diego, Calif., was also impressed with McCarty's humility. "What impressed me most was that she could not understand she had done anything remarkable," Jenkins wrote. "She did what came natural for her—giving more than she received. Mississippi claims many great sons and daughters, but none as authentic as Miss McCarty."

Richard L. Dill, who gave no hometown but said he had read about McCarty's death in the *Boston Globe*, noted that McCarty's gift would keep giving beyond her death. "Her legacy will live on in the education and lives of those who are helped by the scholarship fund she founded," Dill wrote. "I came to this (Web site) to find out where I may send the first of what I intend to make annual contributions to her scholarship fund in her memory."

Today, the memory of Oseola McCarty and "The Gift" still help to support Southern Miss students. Priority consideration is given to "deserving African-American students enrolling at The University of Southern Mississippi who clearly demonstrate a financial need." To make a contribution, contact the USM Foundation at 601.266.5602.

Editor's Note: Sections of this story include paragraphs from University news releases from a four-year period immediately following Oseola McCarty's gift to Southern Miss.

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A Celebration a Century in the Making

Photos Courtesy of University Archives

It started with a fight—"one of greatest legislative fights of the decade," in fact, according to the *Jackson Daily News*. In 1910, after multiple failed attempts, Mississippi lawmakers passed a bill to create a teachers' training college, and on March 30 Gov. Edmond Noel signed legislation that established Mississippi Normal College.

One hundred years later, following a few more battles, more than 115,000 graduates, expansion to multiple campuses and teaching sites, three name changes, nine presidents, and more, The University of Southern Mississippi has not only endured, but it has thrived. Today, one century into its existence, the University is taking time to not only reflect but also to look ahead. The Centennial Celebration of 2010, "A Treasured Past. A Golden Future," is a yearlong commemoration of what has been, what is and what will be, as Southern Miss has grown from a clear-cut plot of land in Hattiesburg to a national research university with campuses, research facilities and teaching sites across south Mississippi.

Centennial Celebration events began in January with the "Voice of the Century" concert, featuring world-renowned opera sensation, Renée Fleming, and will continue throughout the calendar year. Among the special occasions are an expanded Founders' Day program (March 30), a distinctive Spring Commencement Ceremony (May 15) that will take place at M.M. Roberts Stadium, and extraordinary Homecoming festivities (Oct. 16).

"Supporters of Southern Miss have so many reasons to commemorate this momentous occasion; we have come so far in one century," said Jennifer Payne, the University's Centennial Celebration Coordinator. "As much as the Centennial Celebration of 2010 is about our past, it is also about the bright future that lies ahead."

1910 - MARCH 30

Mississippi Normal College is founded by a legislative act as the state's first state-supported teacher training school. Joseph Anderson "Joe" Cook was appointed first president of MNC.

1912

Mississippi Normal College opens for classes on September 18th, and was home to a total of 227 students and 17 faculty members during its first term.

1922

MNC authorized to confer baccalaureate degrees. Kathryn Swetman of Biloxi was awarded the first degree from MNC that May.

1924

MNC's name changes to State Teachers College through a legislative act on March 7, 1924.

1940

STC name changes to Mississippi Southern College.

1952

Mississippi Southern College joins the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

1955 - AUGUST

Former State Archivist for Mississippi, Dr. William David McCain, becomes the fifth president of the institution. His main goal as president was to see the college achieve university status.

1962 - FEBRUARY 27

Governor Ross Barnett signs the bill that made Mississippi Southern College become The University of Southern Mississippi.

1965 - SEPTEMBER

The first African-American students, Raylawni Young Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong, are admitted at USM.

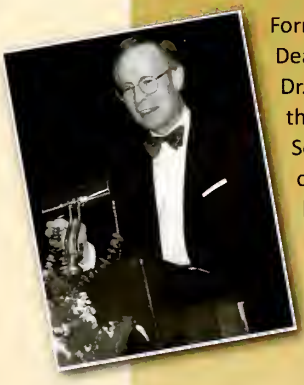
1972

"Golden Eagles" replaces "Southerners" as mascot for athletic teams.

1972

The USM Gulf Park Campus is established at Long Beach. The campus was originally built at the Gulf Park College for Women.

1975 - JULY 1



Former USM Registrar and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas becomes the sixth president of Southern Miss. His 21 years of service made his the longest presidential tenure in the USM's history.

1995 - APRIL

After 13 years in the Metro Conference, Southern Miss becomes a charter member of Conference USA.

Joining Payne and Centennial Special Projects Coordinator Ray Guy in planning the slate of events has been a 50-person committee of alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students and community representatives. The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Alvin Williams, former dean of the College of Business and Rex Kelly, former president of the Alumni Association. Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, president emeritus of the University, is serving as honorary chair. Events are centered on five key focus areas: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Founders Day, and History and Traditions. The slate features the wide variety of talents of the University's students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as highlights the successful and extensive academic programs.

The committee has planned not only multiple events each month featuring all aspects of the University, but also a series of oral history roundtable sessions and a Centennial Museum that opened in Cook Library in March. In addition, an update to "Dearly Bought, Deeply Treasured: The University of Southern Mississippi, 1912-1987," by Dr. Chester "Bo" Morgan will be released in the summer.

Morgan has spent much of the last two years writing and poring over archives, photos and other documents to create the book he hopes will not just be a transition from "Dearly Bought, Deeply Treasured," but capture the spirit of the University and its rich heritage, which he describes as "humble but full of dignity."

"We started out as a training school for rural school teachers, to make life better for those communities, so our existence is inseparable from the welfare of the communities and region we serve," he said. "We came into existence to make life better for ordinary people, and we're still doing that."

Morgan, a Southern Miss alumnus, said the University offered an opportunity he might not have had otherwise.

"I probably couldn't have gone to college if Southern hadn't been here," he said. "I'm not sure I could have afforded the room and board to go anywhere else."

After graduation from Hattiesburg High School in 1967, he went to work for the University's Stores and Receiving as a runner

delivering packages to various offices on campus, giving him the chance to know the University "from the inside out."

"I would deliver anything from live frogs to the biology department to packages out to the golf course," he said. He also held other jobs after he became a student at the University, including night switchboard operator and substitute night manager in the Student Union and manager of the sign shop. "I had more varied jobs as a student than anyone I know," he said.

While the University has opened its doors throughout the years to those who were willing to work hard, it has also been a place where many have come to fine-tune their exceptional talents.

Guy, for instance, went on to become a first-round NFL draft pick of the Oakland Raiders.

He says Southern Miss is an indelible part of who he is, and always will be. In the years since he has been out of football and as the years have passed, he has had time to reflect on what his experience at Southern Miss has meant to him.

"I think at my age I've finally understood what it was like being a student and a player here," he said. "It was here at Southern that I not only received a formal education but an education about people. I met so many different people here, and in the process learned a lot about what made people tick.

"I also can look back now and realized how scared I was when it came time to leave school and go play for the Raiders, but also how important it is that when you finish school that you have to get outside its boundaries, walk across that sidewalk and into the real world. And Southern prepared me to do that."

Like so many others who have walked the grounds of Southern Miss at locations across south Mississippi, Guy is enthusiastic about the Centennial Celebration.

"Without Southern, there would have been no way I would have had the life and good fortune that I've had, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to spread the good word about Southern."

1995 - JULY

Miss Oseola McCarty donates $150,000 to Southern Miss.

2005 - AUGUST

Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf Coast. All of the USM Gulf Coast sites sustained substantial damage forcing classes on the coast to be cancelled for almost six weeks. With more than 120 faculty and staff displaced after the storm and campuses destroyed, Southern Miss came together to rebuild and rebound for the betterment of the coastal communities.

2007 - APRIL

The State Board of Trustees for Institutions for Higher Learning announces that the Cross Creek Development, just north of Long Beach on I-10, would be the site of a new Southern Miss campus.

2007 - MAY 21

Dr. Martha Saunders becomes the first female and the ninth president of The University of Southern Mississippi.

2010 - MARCH 30

Southern Miss will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its legislative founding.

UPCOMING CENTENNIAL EVENTS

MARCH

MARCH – DECEMBER
Centennial Museum Open, Cook Library

MARCH 25
Centennial Front Porch Stories:
College of Business, Hattiesburg Campus

MARCH 27
Centennial Observance at Hubfest,
Downtown Hattiesburg

MARCH 30
Centennial Founders' Day Celebration
festivities to include:

10:30 A.M. - Founders' Day Student Ceremony,
Administration Building South Lawn,
Hattiesburg Campus

11:30 A.M. - Centennial Gateway Dedication,
Hardy Street Entrance, Hattiesburg Campus

2:30 P.M. - Founders' Day Convocation,
Bennett Auditorium, Hattiesburg Campus

4 P.M. - Centennial Community Celebration
and Picnic, Hattiesburg Campus

5:30 P.M. - Founders Day Photo Finale,
M.M. Roberts Stadium, Hattiesburg Campus

APRIL

APRIL 8
Centennial Front Porch Stories: College of
Education & Psychology, Hattiesburg Campus

APRIL 10
The Legacy of Athletics: Baseball
Centennial Celebration, Hattiesburg Campus

APRIL 10
University Service Initiative—The Big Event,
Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast communities.

APRIL 23 AND 25
100 Years of Music: Presented by the Gulf Coast
Civic Chorale, Gulf Coast AEC Auditorium.

APRIL 23 – MAY 2
Centennial Passport Program to the Abbey,
Pontlevoy, France

APRIL 24
The Legacy of Athletics: Track and Field
Centennial Celebration, Hattiesburg Campus

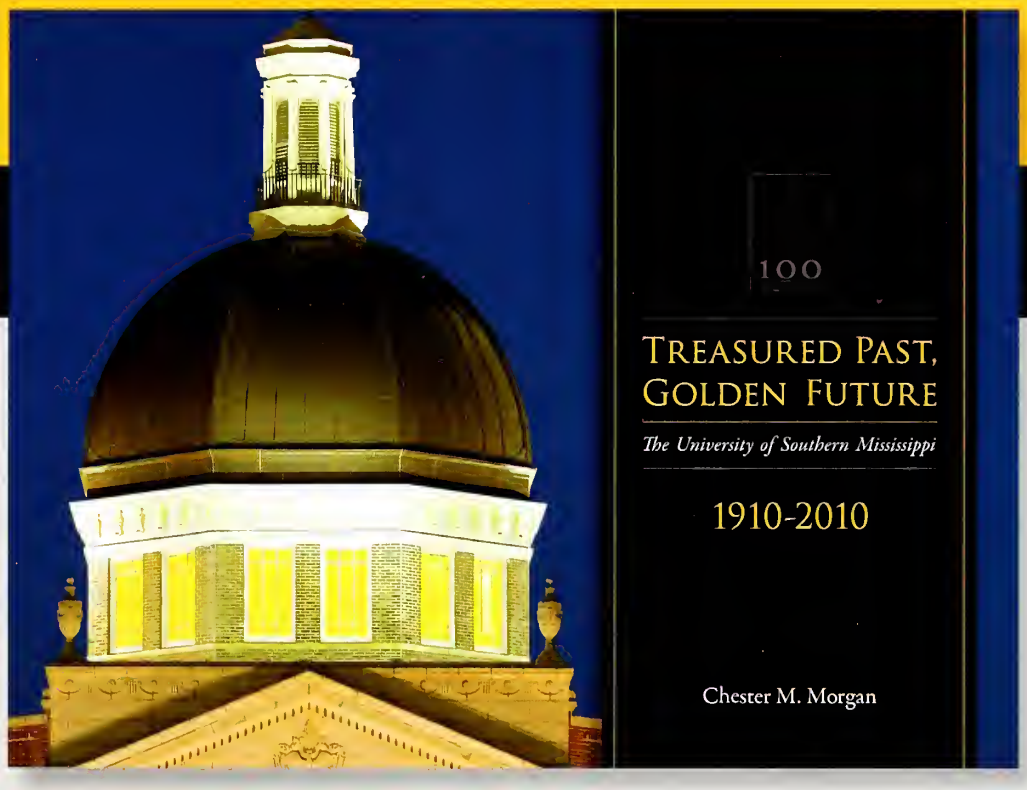
MAY

MAY 5
Centennial Front Porch Stories: Gulf Park,
Gulf Park Campus

MAY 4
7:30 P.M. - Beauty of the Earth Concert,
Performing Arts Center, Hattiesburg Campus

**VISIT USM.EDU/CENTENNIAL
FOR A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

The University of Southern Mississippi
Centennial History



Reserve Your Advance Copy Now

Written by Southern Miss alumnus Dr. Chester "Bo" Morgan and published by the University Press of Mississippi, this book will provide readers with an in-depth look at the unique heritage of Southern Miss. Never-before-seen photographs and vivid prose will make this book the perfect keepsake from our University's Centennial celebration. Books are available for pre-order and will be shipped this summer.

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Whether it is a cold winter night or a warm spring afternoon, be sure to wear your black and gold. When you do, send photos* of yourself, your family and friends, and we will print as many as space allows in a future edition of Snapshots.

Left: Southern Miss alumni and friends gathered at the Gulfport Yacht Club on Sept. 26, 2009, to watch the Golden Eagles' football game with Kansas.

Above Middle: James McRae, Tommy McRae '69 and Robert Goss '88 take time to visit with the Kansas University cheerleaders prior to the Southern Miss football game with the Jayhawks.

Above Bottom: This group of Southern Miss fans brought a little of the black and gold to Houston for the Golden Eagles' game with the Cougars on Oct. 31, 2009. Among them are Debbie Cleveland '76, Lee and Sylina Parker '87, Billy '80 and Brenda Walker '78, Andy '85 and Danna Brown, Brett Walker, and Scott '86 and Margo Stafford.

Above: Bryce Smith, son of Brett '00 and Erin Smith '01, and grandson of Ed '68 and Gloria Williamson and Steve and Judy McAlpin Grimes '71, poses at a home football game this fall.

Top: A reception was held this fall at the Thad Cochran Center for Curt Hébert '85 (center, second row with dark coat and white shirt), who was honored by Sigma Chi Fraternity with its Significant Sig Award, which is given annually to a fraternity brother who has excelled greatly in his field of study or occupation. Hébert, an executive with the Entergy Corporation, currently serves as the Southern Miss Alumni Association's president.

Above: Tadd '90 and Babsie Buchanan '96 hosted more than 30 alumni and friends at their home in Tampa, Fla., for a Southern Miss vs. Kansas game-watching party. This was the second event held in the Tampa Bay area in 2009.

Above: Enjoying Homecoming 2009 postgame tailgating were Amanda, Bill '09, Alex and Bella Broadhead of Mendenhall with a few former and current recipients of the Broadhead Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a member of the Golden Eagle football team who exhibits a strong Christian lifestyle. From left to right are Luke Johnson '05, Amanda Broadhead, Jonathan Palmer '06 '07, Bill Broadhead, Alex Broadhead, Ryan McKee '08, Bella Broadhead and Austin Davis.

***For printing purposes, please save or scan your photos at a resolution of 300 dpi. If you have any questions, contact the Alumni Association at 601.266.5013.**

Now is your chance to catch up on the news and accomplishments of your fellow Golden Eagles. To submit your news to The Talon, please send your information to the Southern Miss Alumni Association, 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, e-mail alumni@usm.edu or post it online at SouthernMissAlumni.com. All cities are in Mississippi unless otherwise noted.

1940s

ED '41 and **MICKEY BEARDEN '42**, who reside in Raymond, recently celebrated 67 years of marriage. Mickey still plays the violin throughout mid-Mississippi with a wash tub band named "The Ragger-Roos."

1950s

ROBERT H. MONTAGUE '57, '59 and wife, Evelyn, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception hosted by their children and grandchildren at Parkway Heights United Methodist Church.

1960s

MARY PAULINE ALFORD '68 announces the birth of her granddaughter, Nikola Tesla Alford. Nikola's parents are Mac H. and Dragana Alford. Nikola was welcomed by big brother Stefan. Mac is an assistant professor of biology and curator of the herbarium at Southern Miss.

BETTY HARRIS BRELAND '69 was honored by the Picayune First United Methodist Church for 40 years of playing the organ for numerous church and community events. The program was planned by her friend and fellow Southern Miss alumna, **LINDA HERNBLOOM HANCOCK '69**.

J. LARRY LADNER '69 was selected as Hancock County's "Citizen of the Year" for 2009.

1970s

A scholarship funded by employees of Grand Bank and named in honor of **ED LANGTON '70** is administered by the Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation and awarded each year to a Pine Belt area high school student based on academic excellence, community involvement and need for financial assistance. Langton serves as president of the foundation's board of directors.

JAMES B. DAVIS '71 recently spent several weeks in China and has joined the cast of the Louisiana Renaissance Festival. Davis is also a retired college administrator.

DR. WILLIAM A. LEWIS '73 was named to the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology board of directors. Dr. Lewis is also a member of the Mississippi Development Authority and president of Pearl River Community College. The MsET is a nonprofit organization that works to create, retain and attract high-wage jobs by tapping the state's scientific and technical assets.

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CURTIS MAKAMSON '73 recently retired from teaching in the Pascagoula Public School System.

1980s

G. SHERRILL PEARSON '80, a Conference USA football official, was chosen to work in instant replay in the 2009 Meineke Car Care Bowl featuring North Carolina and Pitt. Pearson also worked the 2007 Las Vegas Bowl in the same capacity.

JEANNIE GOREE '83, '85 is an adjunct professor at Jacksonville State University and working on her doctorate in education at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She has had several articles published in *Sand Mountain Living*, *Tombigbee Country* and *Oxford SO & SO*.

ROLAND MANN '88 served as an instructor and mentor at the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Creative Writer's Retreat held in November at the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center in Piggott, Ark. Mann is currently pursuing an MFA at Spaulding University.

1990s

CLAIRE '88 and **RICHARD HAMILTON '90, '98**, along with the rest of their family, are celebrating a 30-plus-year tradition of Southern Miss graduates that began in 1973. The tradition even includes all nieces, nephews and in-laws. The list of family members includes Linda '73; Jim '76, '88; Rick '90, '98; Krista '88; Claire '88; Joey '06 and Kristin '08.

CHRIS LEONARD '90 has been promoted to controller of Forrest General Hospital's finance department. Leonard has 19 years of finance and accounting experience that includes nine years at Forrest General.

JASON HELTON '96 has completed the requirements for his doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Jason is currently a physical therapist at the Hattiesburg Clinic.

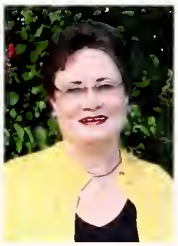
Carolyn Haines '74

Although there are many successful fiction writers, there are few who are as prolific and can boast of success like Carolyn Haines. The Southern Miss alumna is a 2009 recipient of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, and her books "Hallowed Bones" and "Penumbra" were top-five mysteries, as selected by the *Library Journal*. Haines has written more than 60 books, but her most popular are included in the "Bones" series. The "Bones" series consists of nine books that chronicle the life of Sarah Booth Delaney, a southern belle turned private investigator who manages to become a little too involved in her cases. Each of the books, set in the fictional Mississippi Delta town of Zinnia, present Sarah with a new case and personal conflicts that place her in compromising positions. The books have become so popular that Haines will introduce a 10th book to the series in 2010 titled "Bone Appetit."

In addition to releasing a new book in 2010, the Ocean Springs resident will also be celebrating the completion and release of "Delta Blues," an anthology of mysteries written by some of the nation's best authors. The short story collection, edited by Haines, will be released with a 10,000-copy print in April. It features fiction by James Lee Burke, John Grisham, Charlaine Harris, Ace Atkins and other writers, as well as a foreword by Morgan Freeman.

"Delta Blues" will also provide Haines with an opportunity to give back to Mississippi. Tyrus Books, publisher of the anthology, will donate $1 from each book sale to the River Rock Foundation to aid literacy. Haines will also be involved in a high school fiction competition that will give students opportunities to publish their work in a chapbook that will be sold at the "Delta Blues" launch party for charity.

The Lucedale native started her career as a photojournalist. For 10 years, Haines covered a variety of stories that included armed robberies and hostage situations. A few years later, Haines found her calling as a fiction writer while covering a story at Parchman State Prison located in the Mississippi Delta. The Mississippi Delta's odd combination of cotton fields and wealth proved to be an invaluable source of inspiration that provided enough material to produce the nine-book series that helped establish Haines as a great fiction writer.



Rosalyn Rogers Folks

Alumna Honored by Two Organizations

Southern Miss alumna Rosalyn Rogers Folks has been named Alumna of the Year by East Central Community College. The community college honored Folks for many years of teaching and volunteer work. As a volunteer, Folks has been heavily involved in activities in all areas of her community. She has worked with the National Assessment of Education Progress, serves as leader of a senior water exercise class, is a carrier for Meals on Wheels, is a charter member of the Crosby Arboretum and serves on the Friends of the Library board.

Folks was also named Member of the Year by the Retired Educational Personnel of Pearl River County during its meeting in November. Folks was honored for her 36 years of teaching in Picayune public schools. Throughout her career, Folks held many positions, including second grade teacher and reading specialist for the junior high school, and has worked with students with disabilities at Picayune High School. Folks received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Miss in 1966 and 1971, respectively. She is a 1997 inductee in the Alumni Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Association's Continuous and Outstanding Service awards.

Joel McNeece, publisher of the *Calhoun County Journal*, is pictured with Tim Phillips, brother of the award's namesake.

McNeece Honored by the National Newspaper Association

Joel McNeece, publisher of the *Calhoun County Journal*, was presented with the National Newspaper Association's Daniel M. Phillips Leadership Award during its 123rd Annual Convention and Trade Show in Mobile, Ala. The award was established in 2007 to recognize individuals that provide active leadership in the newspaper industry and are active in their state's press association and community.

Over the past 13 years, McNeece has worked for two community newspapers and has been heavily involved in the Bruce community. He serves on the executive board of the Mississippi Press Association and is chairman of the North Mississippi Workforce Development Commission. McNeece is also chairman of the Bruce Museum Committee and two-time president of the Bruce Chamber of Commerce. In 2008, he was selected as Bruce Citizen of the Year. McNeece is a 1994 graduate of Southern Miss and lives with his wife, Lisa, in Bruce.

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Alumnus Sworn in as Circuit Court Judge

Former state prosecutor John C. Gargiulo has been sworn is as judge of Mississippi's Second Circuit Court District. He was one of three candidates interviewed for the position left vacant by Judge Jerry O. Terry. Gargiulo's judicial post serves Hancock, Harrison and Stone counties. Gargiulo started his law career in 1998 in private practice before joining the district attorney's office.

Before his appointment, Gargiulo was an assistant district attorney in the Second Circuit Court District where he prosecuted many felonies involving high-profile sexual and violent crimes. Previously, he was an associate attorney at Bryant Clark Dukes Blakeslee.

Gargiulo and his wife, Lisa, who is also a Southern Miss graduate, have three children, Andrew, Jordan and Katherine. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Southern Miss and a law degree from the University of Mississippi.

John Gargulla, left, is the new judge of Mississippi's Second Circuit Court District.

Alumnus is First Mississippian to Join the American College of Family Trial Lawyers

William Wright

William Wright of Wright Law Firm in Ridgeland was recently selected to join the American College of Family Trial Lawyers (ACFTL). The prestigious group represents the nation's top 100 family law trial lawyers, and its membership is based on recognized litigation skills and courtroom abilities.

In 2008, Wright's work was recognized when he was named one of the top 50 lawyers in Mississippi in the Mid-South edition of *Super Lawyers*.

In addition to being Mississippi's only member to the ACFTL, Wright is one of two Mississippi fellows in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is Mississippi's only fellow in the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

The Jackson native received bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Miss and earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi.

2000s

ROLLYN BRANTLEY '00 and husband, Todd, were married in September during a private ceremony held in Huntersville, N.C. The couple resides in Huntersville where Rollyn works as an artist.

JERRY DEFATTA '00 and his wife, Bethanie, announce the September 8, 2009, birth of their daughters, Eva Marie and Ella Katherine DeFatta.

CLIFF DEES '00 and his wife, Kimberly, were featured on a special episode of the "America's Most Desperate Landscapes" television program. The Dees won the feature spot during a competition with three other couples that aired on the "The Today Show." The show was shot June 12-13, at the Dees' home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The special episode of "America's Most Desperate Landscapes" aired June 25, at 8 p.m. on the DIY Network.

REBECCA THORNELL LEE '00 and husband, Chris, announce the birth of their son, David Edward Lee. He was welcomed by big sister Alexandria.

NANCY MONTAGUE MICHELLI '00 and husband, Bradley, announce the birth of their daughter, Sydney Elizabeth Michelli. Sydney was welcomed by big brother Dylan.

DORTHEA NEAL '00 and husband, Marcus, announce the birth of their son, Maliek Andru Neal. He was welcomed by older siblings Madison, Marcus II and Mika.

JESSE '01 and **NATALIE LANCASTER '01** announce the birth of their son, Jesse Ray Lancaster III.

SARAH MABEY '02 was presented with Hiram College's Paul E. Martin Award for her outstanding contributions to the college's academic programs and educational life. Mabey was honored for her high-profile ornithology work and her work in field station promotion and development.

ANGELA PATTERSON '02 was recently selected as the new digital media coordinator at Bridgestone Americas (formerly known as Bridgestone/Firestone). She will be based out of the company's headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.

ERIC S. BROOME, ESQ. '03, a graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law, resides in Atlanta. Eric is Vice President of Compliance & General Counsel for Georgia's Own Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in the state with more than $1.5 billion in assets and a membership of more than 150,000.

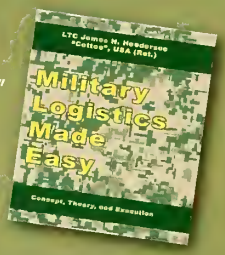
ALUMNI AUTHORS

To submit a book for inclusion in Alumni Authors, please e-mail alumni@usm.edu with the title, author's name and year of graduation, cost, page count, publisher and year of publication, brief synopsis of the book, and an electronic copy of the cover in jpg, tif or pdf format at 300 dpi.

"50 Years of Humor or Just Plain Reality: A Mississippi Boy's Outlook on Life"
120 pages, $10.95
and
"Military Logistics Made Easy: Concept, Theory and Execution"
Lt. Col. James H. Henderson '77, '85
212 pages, $18.95
AuthorHouse, 2009

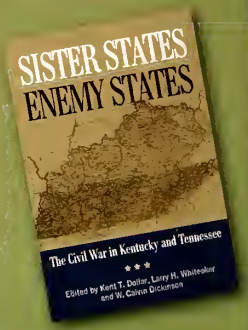
"50 Years of Humor or Just Plain Reality" is a collection of stories that chronicles the life of the author, James H. Henderson. The book takes the reader through three phases of Henderson's life that begin with his days as a football player at The University of Southern Mississippi and end with his 20-year career as an Army officer. The book is filled with highly amusing narratives about different experiences that have shaped the author's life and provides readers some insight into the unique perspective of a Mississippi boy navigating his way through trials and tribulations.

In a second book, "Military Logistics Made Easy: Concept, Theory, and Execution," Henderson uses his 20 years of military experience to create a book that provides easy explanations of the complexities of military logistics. The book is a guide that provides service men and women with answers to many of the difficult questions that involve military logistics. The book addresses many of the uncertainties involved in the receiving, storing, issuing and moving of military supplies and provides new theories on how better symmetry between these components can lead to better execution of logistical procedures.



Lt. Col. Henderson is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Quartermaster Officer Basic Course and Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course. He has served several tours in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Now retired from active duty, he serves as a consultant for the Army. Lt. Col. Henderson also conducts classes and seminars for the U.S. Army Quartermaster and Transportation Schools and trains National Guard and Reserve units on distribution management and logistical support for disaster relief at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

"Sister States, Enemy States: The Civil War in Kentucky and Tennessee"
Kent T. Dollar '86
325 pages, $40
University of Kentucky Press, 2009



Edited by Kent T. Dollar and others, "Sister States, Enemy States" explores the social, political and economic

STACY HARKREADER NEIGHBORS '03 has been selected Middle School Teacher of the Year for the state of Louisiana. She currently works in St. Charles Parish Public Schools just outside of New Orleans teaching eighth grade language arts.

BRADLY '03 and HOLLY JONES '04 announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Grace Jones.

CURTIS W. MAKAMSON '03, '05 is the assistant curator of the Charles Allis and Terrace Art Museums in Milwaukee, Wis.

CASSIE CRENSHAW REID '03, '06 and husband **RYAN '05** announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Taylor Reid.

BEN '04 and MELISSA SMITHHART '05 announce the birth of their son, Carter Wells Smithhart.

ERIC '05 and KRISTEN ARRANT '05 were married in May during a ceremony held in New Orleans, La. Kristen recently earned her master's degree and counselor certification, and Eric has been recognized as a top-25 salesperson for his company, Las Enterprises.

MARY LYNN MAKAMSON '08 is currently teaching English Language Learners at Pascagoula High School and working on her master's degree.

In Memoriam

MILDRED T. CARTER '38
of Laurel, Md., died Sept. 6, 2009.

MAIMO C. WELCH '38
of Anderson, S.C., died Sept. 6, 2009.

MARY M. FINCH '41
of Dickinson, Texas, died Sept. 7, 2009.

JEFFIE A. MOORE '41
of Atlanta, Ga., died Oct. 19, 2009.

JOHN P. POUNCEY '49, '51
of Gautier died Oct. 2, 2009.

NATALIE T. BELL '51
of Foley, Ala., died Oct. 11, 2009.

BOB V. MOULDER '51
of Ridgeland died Nov. 4, 2009.

LUCY P. LEE '53
of Jackson died Oct. 11, 2009.

DAVID M. MADDUX '55
of Jackson died Sept. 28, 2009.

VIRGINIA R. WILGUS '55
of Jackson died Oct. 5, 2009.

JAMES A. GUNTER '56
of Panama City, Fla., died Oct. 11, 2009.

EDWARD L. SHARP '56
of Bayou George, Fla., died Oct. 5, 2009.

EDNA J. GREINER '59
of Biloxi died Aug. 26, 2009.

WILLIAM A. WARREN '61
of Jacksonville, Ala., died Sept. 15, 2009.

issues that arose from the Civil War by examining the similarities and key differences between Kentucky and Tennessee. The book provides an in-depth analysis that goes beyond the normal military and political tales of the Civil War to tell a unique story of how the bond between neighboring states was forever changed due to a major shift in American culture. According to the book, different views concerning readmission to the union and slavery helped create a strained relationship between Kentucky and Tennessee that still exists today.

In the book, the scholars use countless stories to reinforce the issues that separated the states. These stories included families torn apart due to battle lines drawn separating the Confederacy from the Union. Other stories discuss divided alliances and major political battles within state lines that further fragmented Kentucky and Tennessee.

Kent T. Dollar is an assistant professor of history at the Tennessee Technological University.

"The Longleaf Trace Companion"
Anthony A. Mozingo '88
$19.95
TootToot Publishing, 2009

After conducting many years of research, Tony Mozingo, a native of the Hattiesburg area, has written the official guide for Mississippi's award-winning Longleaf Trace. "The Longleaf Trace Companion" tells the story of the Longleaf Trace, a segment of the old Mississippi Central Railway that transported materials to sawmills and logging camps for more than 100 years before its abandonment due to highway construction. In 2000, a 41-mile segment of the old railway was paved to create a pedestrian, equestrian, Rollerblade and bicycle trail located between Hattiesburg and Prentiss.

"The Longleaf Trace Companion" is a user-friendly, mile-by-mile field manual that brings the Trace alive by highlighting its contemporary features and resurrecting its lost history. The book features colorful and accurate maps with historical anecdotes, photographs and practical tips throughout. This guide is designed to help readers identify trees and wildlife along the Trace, provide quick information about extinct communities and other historical locations surrounding the Trace, plan trips that create more effective use of the Trace's features, and provide information about the current cities surrounding the Longleaf Trace.

Mozingo is an attorney and judge in south Mississippi with more than 15 years of experience in courtrooms throughout the South. Over the last five years, Mozingo has spent hundreds of hours researching the Mississippi Central Railroad and has become a valued historian of the railway. He is a graduate of Southern Miss and Mississippi College of Law and currently lives in Lamar County with his wife Ashley, and children Robert Lee, Grace and Millie Rose.

GLEN A. CHANCE '62 of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died Oct. 4, 2009.

M. DREUX VANHORN '62
of New Orleans, La., died Aug. 27, 2009.

CHARLES H. HEIDELBERG '63
of Beaumont, Texas, died Sept. 27, 2009.

SUZETTE FALKOWSKI '64
of Winston-Salem, N.C., died Sept. 8, 2009.

IRENE HODGES '64
of Brookhaven died Sept. 29, 2009.

KIRK L. POBANZ '64
of Davenport, Ill., died Sept. 21, 2009.

DR. MARY A. CARMICHAEL '65, '66, '67
of Hattiesburg died Sept. 6, 2009.

RICHARD W. SAWYER '65
of Mobile, Ala., died Sept. 22, 2009.

HAZEL N. SUMMEROUR '65
of Lucedale died Oct. 30, 2009.

DORIS J. HAUSHALTER '66
of Pensacola, Fla., died Oct. 9, 2009.

CLARK P. DAVIS '68 of Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Sept. 21, 2009.

LILLIAN J. RANDALL '68, '76
of Gulfport died Oct. 15, 2009.

NEIL HALDERMAN '69
of Doylestown, Pa., died Sept. 19, 2009.

JIMMY CUTRELL '71
of Gainesville, Ga., died Oct. 28, 2009.

MICHAEL BLANCHARD '72
of Pearland, Texas, died Oct. 23, 2009.

REJOHNNA B. BROWN '72
of Jackson died Oct. 9, 2009.

EARLENE TISDALE '72
of Ellisville died Oct. 23, 2009.

DR. WILLIAM HERRING SR. '73
of Jackson died Oct. 6, 2009.

JANE R. HICKMAN '74, '82
of Gulfport died Oct. 4, 2009.

JOHN FERRER '75
of Pascagoula died Sept. 10, 2009.

HOWARD W. FROMAN '75, '91
of Biloxi died Sept. 25, 2009.

CAROL VANZANDT '77
of Clinton died Oct. 6, 2009.

DIXIE K. DEAN '83
of Barlett, Tenn., died Oct. 11, 2009.

LINDA W. GREEN '84
of Washington died Sept. 2, 2009.

SHIRLEY F. BORK '88
of Watertown, Wis., died Sept. 27, 2009.

PATSY L. BANDY '92
of Ocean Springs died Oct. 8, 2009.

RICHARD T. LAWRENCE '94
of Pascagoula died Oct. 25, 2009.

ROXANNE P. MCGRATH '96, '02
of Pascagoula died Oct. 11, 2009.

FRANCES V. FAIRLEY '97
of Jackson died Sept. 30, 2009.

CHRISTOPHER M. VARGA '01
of Jackson died Oct. 11, 2009.

ROBERT W. ULMER '06
of Quitman died Nov. 1, 2009.

ZILLIAH C. CRATER
of Carthage died Oct. 6, 2009.

BROCK A. LOPER JR.
of Jackson died Nov. 3, 2009.

C.A.R.D.

Current Alumni Retail Discounts

This listing contains current participants in The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association's C.A.R.D. Program. By presenting either your Southern Miss Alumni Association annual dues membership card or your Life Membership card, you will receive the discount noted by each participant. The program is designed to bring added value to your membership in the Alumni Association and to thank you for your support of Southern Miss.

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Brownstone's LLC	*20% discount on entrees*
Coliente Grille	*10% off of total purchase*
Chesterfield's	*10% discount on food purchases*
Classic Concepts/ACE Home Center	*10% discount on purchases or rentals*
Comfort Inn-The Lodge	*10% off rack rate*
Comfort Suites *	*10% off rack rate*
Commond Sponish, Inc	*20% discount on online language courses at www.commondsponishonline.com when applying USMAA20 promotional code*
Doherty's Furniture	*10% discount on purchases*
Domino's Pizzo *	*20% discount on any delivery order*
Expectations	*15% discount on total purchase (does not apply to furniture)*
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Garfield's Restaurant *	*20% discount on all food & drink purchases*
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Heritage Vision Center	*10% discount on all eyeglasses and sunglasses for regular members and 20% discount for Life Members*
Hodges Dental Clinics	*10% discount on dental services*
Holiday Inn *	*10% off rack rate*
Holiday Inn Express, Lucedale	*15% off standard room rate*
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O'Charley's	*10% discount on all purchases, excluding alcohol*
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Parris Jewelers	*10% discount on all items*
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Simmons Furniture	*10% discount on all items*
The Sleep Number Store by Select Comfort	*Free pillow when you find your Sleep Number setting*
Sonic Drive Inn on Hwy 11	*Free 20 oz. Drink or Slush with purchase of #1 or #2 Burger*
Southern Interiors	*5% discount on flooring, 10% discount on furniture and accessories*
Southland Florists	*10% discount on purchases (cash-and-carry excluded)*
The Spicy Pickle	*10% discount with alumni card*
Stix & Stones Garden Ctr.	*10% discount on total purchase (sale items excluded)*
Tall Pines Farm	*10% discount on gift baskets and catering*
Tranquility Day Spa	*10% member discount, 15% discount for Life Members on all services, not valid with other discounts*
University Florist	*10% discount on all purchases (cash and carry only)*
Villie's Subs	*$1.00 off order of six-inch sandwich, side order and large drink $1.00 off game day party subs*
Wintzell's Oyster House	*10% off total bill*

^ All discounts subject to change or termination without prior notice. Please verify discount with provider before making purchase. *Hattiesburg locations only.

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CENTENNIAL TRiVIA

Answers below are to questions asked on Page 12.

1. The school's yearbook was originally titled Neka Caman, a Native- American phrase meaning "new spirit."
2. Evelyn Gandy was the first woman in Mississippi to serve as a state representative and later went on to serve as assistant attorney general, commissioner of public welfare, state treasurer and lieutenant governor.
3. "Southern Miss to the Top" was written in 1955. It was a song from the original musical production "Hey Daze" based on student life at Mississippi Southern College.
4. Clarence Weatherspoon, who went on to become a first-round draft pick of the Philadelphia 76ers, also led the Golden Eagles to two NCAA Tournament bids.

How did you score?

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The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association extends its gratitude and appreciation to the sponsors and participants of the 2009 Shell Finish Line / Southern Miss Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament. The tournament marked the 11th consecutive year with major corporate sponsorship and the first tournament played at Hattiesburg Country Club.

The tournament featured 125 golfers and 50 sponsors, with proceeds from the event helping to support the Association's Pierce Legacy Scholarship Fund, from which the organization awards scholarships to select children and grandchildren of Southern Miss alumni.

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2009 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1st Gross:	2nd Gross:	3rd Gross:	1st Net:	2nd Net:	3rd Net:
Brad Brion	Vic Purvis	Will Martens	Roy Guy	John Thornton	Joe Sullivan
Russell Boltz	Lee Jorrell Dovis	Chad Diamond	Torey Treganowen	Don Drone	Glenn Portrick
Forrest Roberts	Tony Smith	Josh Thoms	Robbie Gill	Mark Possmore	Chris Leonard
Bud Holmes	Joey Tanner	Bobby Moddox	John Horn	Dave Groney	Lamar Lott

From left, Vice President for Advancement Dr. David Wolf and Bob Pierce, executive director of the Alumni Association, accept the contribution to the Association's Pierce Legacy Scholarship Fund from Shell Finish Line's Will Martens and Hattiesburg Coca-Cola's Brad Brian.

Southern SCENES

College Hall

One of the five original buildings on the Hattiesburg Campus, College Hall, shown at left in 2009, was the site of the institution's first classes. The five structures were designed by architect R. H. Hunt and erected in time for Mississippi Normal College to open its doors to students in September 1912. While the initial purpose of College Hall was broad—it housed classrooms, offices, a library and an auditorium—today it is used exclusively for classroom and office space.

The remaining of the original structures are as follows:

Forrest County Hall, which was originally built as a residence hall, now houses Business Services, as well as the office of the Chief Information Officer and the University's Technology and Data Center;

Hattiesburg Hall, which has maintained its original purpose as a residence hall;

The Honor House, which was originally named the Industrial Cottage, a facility used to teach women homemaking skills, is now home to the Honors College;

The Ogletree House, which is named for Powell G. Ogletree, the first executive director of the Alumni Association, originally served as the president's home. In 1976, following the purchase of a new president's home off-campus, it was designated to the Alumni Association. In 2009, the Association completed a $4 million restoration and expansion project, which returned the facility to its original glory and nearly doubled the size of the original structure.

Photo by Kelly Dunn

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